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Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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TCGCC cancels HKE's casino license

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
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REPORTER

» 3 casino licenses now available
» Tinian mayor 'cautiously optimistic' TDHC will reopen under 'different name'

The Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission has cancelled the casino license for Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino's operators Hong Kong Entertainment (Overseas) Investment, Ltd. and Chun Wai Chan during a special meeting held on Tinian yesterday.

The commission made the decision after a 5-0 vote, after TCGCC executive director William M. Cing recommended the cancellation of the casino license.

"The commission has jurisdiction over the cancellation or suspension of a casino license pursuant to the Re-

See TCGCC on Page 4

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino's casino operations are not expected to resume soon after Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission cancelled the casino license of its owner Hong Kong Entertainment (Overseas) Investment, Ltd.

PUP agreement proposed to build RO system on Saipan

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
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REPORTER

A public-to-public partnership agreement with the Capital Projects Finance Authority to build a reverse osmosis water treatment plant to address Saipan's water problems was proposed at a dinner meeting at the Fiesta Resort & Spa last night.

The meeting, initiated by the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, was attended by members of the Legislature and a quorum of board members and management of the Common-

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FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON

A dinner meeting headed by the Office of the Lieutenant Governor on a proposed public-to-public partnership agreement to build a reverse osmosis water treatment plant on Saipan was attended by the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and some members of the Legislature at the Fiesta Resort & Spa last night.

Radich couple opposes PTSA's motion to intervene for appeal

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

» Couple's lawyer says challenged laws no longer exist; PTSA no standing

U.S. Navy veteran David J. Radich and his wife, Li-Rong Radich, are opposing the request of the Tanapag Middle School Parent Teacher Student Association to intervene in their lawsuit that successfully challenged the constitutionality of the CNMI gun control law.

The Radich couple, through counsel David G. Sigale, said the Tanapag Middle School PTSA seeks to appeal the U.S. District Court's March 28, 2016, ruling that declared unconstitutional the Commonwealth's near absolute ban on handgun possession for purposes of self defense.

As of now, Sigale said, the challenged laws no longer exist, at least in the form the court considered in this suit, because the Commonwealth passed Public Law 19-42, the Special Act for Firearms Enforcement Act, following the court summary judgment ruling, which repealed and/or amended all the laws that the Radich couple had challenged.

Sigale said because, as the PTSA alleges, the Commonwealth did not appeal the court's March 28 ruling, the court should deny the PTSA's motion to intervene because the PTSA has not—and indeed cannot—establish Article 3 standing.

The lawyer said to establish Article

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INSIDE

LOCAL
Hard Rock Café franchise locations from all over the world are paying homage to classic Mexican cuisine and cocktails and Saipan is joining the fiesta!
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NATION
Key Senate Republicans voiced optimism Tuesday about Donald Trump's presidential prospects in November.
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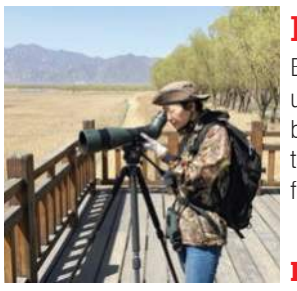

ENVIRONMENT
Beijing has emerged as an unexpected destination for bird-watching, as China's capital city is located on a major flyway between northern Asia.
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SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

Local

IN FACE OF TAXPAYER LAWSUIT:

Torres administration stresses MV *Luta* benefits

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres has no comment yet on the taxpayer's lawsuit brought against his right-hand man, Lt. Gov. Victor Hocog, over the adoption of a resolution Hocog authored while he was Senate president last year that purportedly passed without public notice and discussion and authorized the payment of $400,000 to a private company owned by Hocog's relatives.

However, the Torres administration yesterday stressed the food and goods relief that the MV *Luta*, the 150-foot cargo ship for which the $400,000 was used to subsidize, could bring to the people of Rota.

The administration was pressed for comment late Tuesday, when news of the taxpayer's lawsuit by former Department of Public Lands secretary John DelRosario first broke.

Among other things, the administration was asked if Torres stood by Hocog as he faced allegations for violations of the Open Government Act, Ethics Act, among others; reasons for the administration's transfer $400,000 from the CNMI General Fund Account to Luta Mermaid, LLC's bank account in March 2015, despite the author of the resolution, Hocog, being relatives with owners of the company; and if the CNMI government has been repaid the public funds disbursed by Finance in 2015. The resolution called for a repayment of the $400,000 "within a period of one year."

"Governor Torres has not yet spoken to the attorney general about the lawsuit or actually seen the complaint filed in Superior Court with respect to the MV *Luta*. The governor cannot therefore provide any specific comments at this time about the judicial suit," said governor spokesman Ivan Blanco said in an email yesterday.

"The governor does, however, want everyone—and especially the people of Rota who have for so many years suffered and endured incredibly high food costs and prices for basic household commodities because of unpredictable shipping services to that island—that he will continue to work for a solution to that problem and hopes that the MV *Luta* can play some role in bringing relief to the people throughout the CNMI," Blanco said.

DelRosario also filed the lawsuit against Department of Finance Secretary Larissa Larson for causing this $400,000 to be transferred from the general fund account to the company Luta Mermaid LLC.

The $400,000 was reportedly from funds from the Saipan exclusive license fees reserved to Rota through the casino law.

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International with Beef Rendang
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Please inquire also for group parties from 10 to 160 seats (Christening, Birthdays, Meetings or Seminars)

IN WAKE OF KAN PACIFIC, BSI SETTLEMENT:

Public Lands touts RFP free of litigation threats

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Kan Pacific Saipan Ltd., the owners of the Mariana Resort and Spa, and the Department of Public Lands differ on their spin of a settlement reached between the government and Kan Pacific and Imperial Pacific International, owners of the Saipan casino, over the government's allegations that an agreement reached between the two investors in December was collusive and meant to eliminate competition in DPL's open bid for Marianas Resort lands.

DPL, in a statement yesterday, maintains that the agreement was an attempt by Imperial Pacific, parent company of the Best Sunshine International, Ltd. to "eliminate competition in our RFP." The CNMI Office of Attorney General on Tuesday, in announcing the settlement, had said that they took "anti-competitive agreements seriously" and would continue to pursue these claims whenever they arise.

But Kan Pacific maintains that the case "had had absolutely no merit whatsoever as to Kan Pacific," said Kan Pacific counsel Joseph Iacopino in a statement.

"The DPL was essentially trying to claim that BSI was paying KPS to refrain from submitting a bid in relation to the RFP," he said. "However, Kan Pacific had no intention of bidding on the RFP. Instead of bidding, it had been Kan Pacific's intention to file a case in court to prevent the RFP process from taking place, largely on the basis that the DPL had represented and promised Kan Pacific that a subsequent lease was going to be issued to Kan Pacific. Kan Pacific wasn't in a financial position to submit a conforming bid even if it had wanted to. We fully expected to win that case.

"The DPL's claims were set forth in a complicated case involving multiple parties and multiple issues. Sometimes the cost of winning is much greater than the cost of settlement. Sometimes it just makes better economic sense to settle rather than suffer the expense and tribulation of litigation. Kan Pacific chose to just settle the case and move forward," he added.

DPL, for its part, said in their statement they were "pleased" to announce the resolution to the dispute.

Among others, DPL also alleged that Kan Pacific's previous assignments and subleases of public land were void because Kan Pacific failed to comply with its lease and seek DPL's prior approval.

DPL said that as part of the settlement, Kan Pacific represented that it did not have the financial ability to submit a proposal that was responsive to DPL's request for proposals.

It said that in dismissing all claims brought in the lawsuit, Kan Pacific and Imperial Pacific agreed to $500,000 to DPL to resolve its claims.

"Moreover Kan Pacific agreed to terminate its lease early if the winning bidder under" the RFP "requests its lease to commence before Kan Pacific's natural expiration in 2018."

December's Kan Pacific-Best Sunshine deal essentially provides that Kan Pacific will assign its remaining lease to the Saipan casino and will continue to operate the resort "for at least a year," the casino said in a statement then. The Kan Pacific lease expires in April 2018.

"DPL is pleased to resolve this matter and to remove any barriers to completion of its RFP on time and without interference," said DPL Secretary Marianne Teregeyo yesterday.

"This settlement reaps a significant reward for the Commonwealth, removes the threat of litigation by Kan Pacific to prevent award of a new lease to the winning bidder, and paves the way for DPL to begin collecting significantly higher rents for our public lands in Marpi as soon as July or August of this year," she added.

DFS Guam prevails on all claims against GIAA

»GIAA ordered to pay $2.5M, including interest and penalties

BARRIGADA AND TAMUNING, Guam—DFS Guam LP announced yesterday that it prevailed across the board on all claims against the Guam International Airport Authority for GIAA's taking of over $1.8 million dollars of DFS' money.

The arbitration, which occurred on Guam, arose from GIAA's breach of the Main Concession Agreement, one of the contracts that governed DFS' duty free operations at the airport and addressed GIAA's seizure of the funds done in apparent retaliation for DFS contesting GIAA's improper award of the airport concession contract to Lotte Duty Free Guam LLC. The arbitrators' decision represents a clear victory for DFS and a significant defeat for GIAA.

The award by the three highly qualified arbitrators picked jointly by both GIAA and DFS was both succinct and definitive, unanimously stating that "GIAA breached Section 12.3.1 of the Main Agreement and damaged DFS by drawing down a portion of the Faithful Performance Bond in spite of the fact that no breach by DFS of the Main Agreement was alleged by GIAA." The arbitration panel ordered GIAA to return the $1.8 million it seized from DFS. In addition, GIAA was ordered to pay interest on DFS' money at 6 percent per annum, running from Dec. 5, 2013, until the amount is paid in full—this currently amounts to over $270,000 in interest payable by GIAA to DFS. The arbitration panel also ordered GIAA to pay all of DFS' legal fees of over $380,000 and the full cost of the arbitration fees, costs, and expenses of over $150,000. GIAA must also pay interest on DFS' attorneys' fees and expenses, running from the date of the decision until the amount is paid in full. Because GIAA has not yet paid the amount, the final amount that will be owed by GIAA is not yet determined, but the amount will be no less than $2.5 million payable to DFS. In addition to the payments GIAA must make to DFS, GIAA has additionally incurred legal expenses of over $400,000 to its own lawyers, the law firm of Calvo Fisher & Jacob, during the arbitration.

Critically, GIAA's seizure of DFS' money is part of a broader campaign waged by GIAA and its lawyers to intimidate DFS in its effort to seek redress for the improper award of GIAA's duty free concession contract to Lotte Duty Free Guam. Several lawsuits arising from this misconduct remain pending before Judge Barcinas in Guam Superior Court.

DFS' victory in the arbitration case is only part of a legal process that has now stretched nearly three years, by which DFS seeks substantive redress for the various violations of law and the bid process committed by GIAA that resulted in Lotte Duty Free Guam wrongfully obtaining the duty free concession contract at the Guam International Airport.

In its currently pending lawsuits, DFS asks the Superior Court to find that GIAA violated various provisions of Guam law and bid rules that rendered Lotte an unqualified bidder that submitted a nonresponsive bid. DFS also requests that the court find the concession contract invalid from the time that the GIAA and Lotte signed it. DFS alleges that the GIAA violated the mandatory stay provision, which if had been followed, would have afforded DFS the ability to defend its rights by prohibiting the award of the contract until DFS' protest had been resolved. DFS seeks both injunctive relief and monetary damages.

DFS also asks the court to order a new RFP process to be supervised by an independent monitor appointed by the court.

"DFS remains undeterred and unintimidated by the many tactics employed by GIAA and its lawyers to delay justice for the wrongs detailed in the lawsuits pending before Judge Barcinas," stated Maurice M. Suh, one of the attorneys for DFS. DFS has consistently stated that it is pursuing its case to bring to light the corrupt activities that resulted in the award of the concession contract to Lotte and for the benefit of the public contracting process in Guam. DFS supports the integrity of the law to keep Guam a place where companies and businesses want to invest, and to hold the GIAA and Lotte to the standards of conduct that Guam deserves. ***(PR)***

ALL SMILES CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Some of the faces of the Best Sunshine International- Corporate Social Responsibility 1 are, from left, Roderick Blanco, Erica Tenorio, Malcom Omar, Franchesca Tomokane, and Dania Mettao. They make up the company's Emergency Management Committee during the recent EMS Proclamation signing.

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Man'amko 'take over' Senate

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

As part of this year's "*Man'amko* Takeover Day," some of the CNMI's elderly visited lawmakers at their offices on Capitol Hill to legislate on issues concerning them.

Essentially, officials on Capitol Hill welcomed the *man'amko* as acting lawmakers for the day and held a mock session for them.

"Senator" Venusto Mangarero, for one, "took over" the office of Sen. Sixto Igisomar (R-Saipan).

Mangarero introduced Senate Resolution 19-02 in the Senate mock session, which urgently requested the governor to expedite an investigation regarding abuse of employees that "tantamount acts of slavery and nonpayment of appropriate salaries, especially to those who are poor and have little or no formal education."

Mangarero introduced S.R. 19-02 in the 19th Senate Mock Session today; "Urgently requesting the governor to expedite an investigation regarding abuse of employers that is tantamount to acts of slavery and nonpayment of appropriate salaries, especially to those who are poor and have little or no formal education."

"Senator" Rudy Sablan, who took over Sen. Arnold Palacios' (R-Saipan) office, introduced, for his part, Senate Resolution 19-01, which recognizes and honors *man'amako* for "all their teachings, guidance, contributions, and services in the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands."

The *man'amko* senators also talked about care for the elderly, the military lease and use the CNMI property, healthcare for *man'amko* and retirees especially non-Aetna insurance qualified, Medical referral costs and guest houses challenge for Tinian/Rota.

Man'amko also visited the House of Representatives and Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' office yesterday, among other, department and agency offices.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Man'amko joined lawmakers yesterday where they passed legislation and discussed issues during a mock session in the Senate chamber on Capitol Hill.

TCGCC

From Page 1

vised Tinian Casino Gaming Control Act of 1989, which charges the commission with, among other responsibilities, the responsibility to hear and decide all causes affecting cancellation of a casino license," Cing said.

HKE was the operator of TDHC pursuant to a casino license granted by the Commission. Chan is the president and chairman of HKE.

With the cancellation, the Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan how has three available casino licenses.

Current casino licensees are Bridge Investment Group and Alter City Group.

Under the Revised Tinian Casino Gaming Control Act of 1989, TCGCC cited as a ground for cancellation was the operator's failure to comply with the audit requirement for the financial years 2008 through 2014.

"A casino operator is required to have its books, account, and financial statements relating to the operations of its casino audited. The audit enables the municipality to ensure that the revenues reported by a casino are accurate, because the revenues are the basis for calculating taxes, which can then be used for local public purposes, such as for education, law enforcement, programs for the youth and elderly, which are vital to the public welfare of Tinian," Cing said.

Another citation was HKE's failure to keep and maintain separate bank accounts in the CNMI for banking transactions related to the operations of the casino.

"The requirement for separate and local bank account helps to ensure, among other matters, the accuracy of the revenues reported by a casino operator, and therefore the accuracy of the taxes levied on the casino, and the casino's compliance with laws and regulations such as anti-money laundering law," Cing said.

The third citation was for turning over the administration, management, and operational control of the casino to persons who have not gone through a suitability check.

"A suitability check means checking the background and integrity of owners," Cing said, "It is a foundation of contemporary casino gambling regulation."

"When the people of Tinian voted to allow casino gambling in 1989, the people, also voted to provide strict regulations over casino gambling to be enforced by the commission through the Gaming Act," Cing said.

'Insurmountable liabilities'

In his statement, Tinian Mayor Joey P. San Nicolas said that while he hoped that the municipality could somehow assist HKE resume operations of the casino at the Dynasty, "the liabilities that have been incurred by HKE in the course of conducting gaming activities are insurmountable."

"As I've stated in the beginning of my administration, we will do everything in our ability to continue fostering our casino industry. However, it has to be clear that these endeavors must be within the confines of the Gaming Act. Given all that has been said and done, HKE could not meet the standards set forth by law and I applaud them for recognizing that while we are casino friendly, we have rules that must be followed and this announcement was to be expected," San Nicolas said.

Tinian has not generated any casino revenues for the past seven months which, according to San Nicolas is having a substantial impact in their ability to deliver programs and services.

"However, with planning and prudence we've managed to keep our people employed and to assist our school kids, the sick in our community and our *man'amko* with the little resources that we have. I am proud of that record," San Nicolas said.

"We are definitely far from being out of the woods but through the leadership's support, we were able to reach out to seek more investors and those efforts are looking like they are going to pay off," he added.

San Nicolas said that with the recent amendments to the Gaming Act, they would be expecting a minimum of $1 million a year from casino license fees.

"That would keep the TCGCC in operation to do what they need to in terms of vetting interested new applicants. I am cautiously optimistic that with hard work and continued collaboration with the Tinian Leadership, we will see the Tinian Dynasty doors open sooner rather than later but with probably a different name," San Nicolas said.

RADICH

From Page 1

3 standing, one must "prove that he has suffered a concrete and particularized injury that is fairly traceable to the challenged conduct, and is likely to be redressed by a favorable judicial decision."

Sigale said while the PTSA apparently hopes to establish Article 3 standing by inaccurately comparing the possession of firearm by qualified law abiding persons to illegal drugs, sexual abuse, and domestic violence, PTSA's statements make clear that PTSA seeks only to "vindicate… value preferences through the judicial process."

Tanapag Middle School PTSA president A. Kodep Ogumoro-Uludong said they oppose the legalization of handguns in the CNMI because these weapons add a new and dangerous threat to the students' welfare.

"A handgun in the home or school creates new opportunities for murder, assault and suicide, as well as attempts and threats to commit them, not to mention accidental death and injury from gunshot," said Ogumoro-Uludong in his declaration filed in court.

The declaration was attached to Tanapag Middle School PTSA's memorandum in support of its motion to intervene for purposes of appeal in the Radich couple's lawsuit.

Ogumoro-Uludong said a handgun can be easily carried, brandished, and used even by children too young to fully appreciate its danger.

In Tanapag Middle School PTSA's memorandum, attorney Joseph E. Horey said if the court's decision in the Radich couple's case is allowed to remain in force without appeal, the PTSA's ability to protect its interest in the "welfare of children and youth in home, school, and community" will this be permanently impeded.

In her March 28 ruling, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona declared unconstitutional the CNMI gun control law that prohibits all residents from obtaining handguns for self-defense purposes.

In response, the CNMI passed Public Law 19-42, SAFE Act, which removes the ban on possession of handguns and also establishes new rules for transporting and using firearms.

PUP

From Page 1

wealth Utilities Corp. and discussed the proposed reverse osmosis system to be implemented on Saipan and how it can be financed.

According to John Gonzales, chief of staff to Lt. Gov. Victor Hocog, they invited some senators and representatives for the presentation which started around 8pm. However, some representatives were not informed until around 7:30pm.

Robert Toelkes, who said he is a consultant for Hocog but is not under contract, according to Gonzales, was representing the lieutenant governor's plan to address the water issue on Saipan, led the presentation.

Toelkes is also the president of Financial Solutions Group and International Bridge Corp., a company which filed for bankruptcy last year in the midst of its project to rebuild the John F. Kennedy High School in Guam and maintain its facilities for the next 25 years.

The Capital Projects Finance Authority or CaPFA, which was being proposed for the CNMI to enter into an agreement with, was also involved in the JFK project in Guam. CaPFA described itself as "nominal owner" of the high school.

According to its website, "CaPFA is a public body corporate and politic, created pursuant to Ordinance No. 214, duly enacted by the City Council of the City of Moore Haven, Florida on Sept. 23, 1993 for the purpose of making loans to qualified Public Agencies in the State of Florida or in the United States."

"Capital Projects Finance Authority is a governmental entity and their goal is to assist credit challenged municipalities and that's what they do," Toelkes said.

In his presentation, Toelkes said that a six-million-gallon-per-day reverse osmosis water treatment plant was the immediate solution to the water problem on Saipan.

He said the RO system would be located in Lower Base adjacent to Power Plant 1 and will be housed in a precast concrete structure. The plant will include a full standby power utilizing existing rebuilt generators from Power Plant II.

The existing nine million gallon tank at Sadog Tasi would be rehabilitated and used as clear well water storage, according to Toelkes.

Toelkes said the reverse osmosis system would cost $160 million and would take 12 months to build—during which leaks and problems in the distribution need to be addressed. The cost of operation was estimated to be at $10 per a thousand gallon water.

The CUC board seemed to support the proposal, echoing Toelkes presentation that an RO system would be the immediate solution for Saipan.

However, leaks as well as problems with the aged pipes, which could later on cause contamination was raised.

Gonzales said the proposals are "options if and when the declaration is made."

The CUC board last month requested for a declaration of emergency on the water situation on Saipan, also stating the fact that they do not have the financial capacity to address the issues. The move was seen as a possible way to circumvent the normal procurement process.

CUC board member Ignacio Perez commented that requesting for proposals on this kind of project will not give an offer like the one presented.

"This offer is a solution for power generation, reverse osmosis," Perez said.

Asked if they will issue an RFP for such a project, CUC board chair Adelina Roberto said she has "no idea because the governor and lieutenant governor is involved now."

"If it's not RFP and the government gets involved, then it's okay for CUC. That's why CUC requested to declare a water emergency because we need the government to help us because we just don't have the funding," Roberto said.

With the financing proposed, CUC will not pay for five years after the system is built, according to board chair Adelina Roberto, but there is a 5 to 7 percent anticipated interest rate. CUC will pay for the project for 30 years.

When asked if she supports the proposed project, Roberto said, "We would like to go to RO system if that's the best solution. If that's the best solution, then we go for the best solution."

SCS TEACHERS APPRECIATION WEEK
Saipan Community School faculty and staff led by principal Bobby Winkfield, third from left, pose for a group photo after receiving certificates of appreciation from the school's grade 7 students last Friday, May 6, at the end of Teachers Appreciation Week.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Ex-convict gets 5 years in jail for theft using bank checks

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho yesterday slapped a sentence of five years imprisonment against an ex-convict who committed theft by using bank checks he did not own.

Camacho said this five-year sentence shall start after defendant James Anthony Palacios Webb has served 10 months day for day in his previous conviction.

The judge said after serving three years in the theft case, the 25-year-old Webb will be eligible for parole.

After serving the prison term, Webb will be placed on unsupervised probation for 10 years.

Camacho said he imposes the maximum length of 10 years of probation to ensure that the defendant continues to be monitored for many years so that he does not commit another crime or associate with known convicted felons.

Camacho required Webb to pay a $100 fine, $25 in court costs, and $1,000 in probation fee.

The defendant was ordered to perform 200 hours of community work service. He was ordered to pay $517.43 in restitution to San Roque Market, $539.25 in restitution to Twins Market in Dandan, and $292 in restitution to Paradise Hotel in Garapan.

At the sentencing, Webb's tearful father and mother informed the court that their son never got in trouble until he got into the wrong crowd and started using methamphetamine or "ice."

Last April 13, Camacho imposed the maximum 10 months of his suspended sentence against Webb for violating the terms and conditions of his probation.

Camacho ordered Webb to serve the 10 months day for day without the possibility of parole.

Webb was given credit for time served.

The defendant pleaded guilty to the offense of violating the terms and conditions of his probation.

According to the factual basis of the plea agreement, between Dec. 4 and 15, 2015 on Saipan, Webb stole approximately $1,352.68 in hotel services, food items, cigarettes, miscellaneous store items, and U.S. currency, from Paradise Hotel, Twins Market in Dandan, and San Roque Market.

Webb violated the terms and conditions of his probation in his prior conviction by failing to obey all CNMI laws by committing the offense of theft.

Camacho said the $94.21 in restitution to Shell Highway Express in Gualo Rai as ordered in the previous conviction shall be converted to a civil judgment because he is serving the full maximum sentence of 10 months and there are no suspended sentence.

Assistant attorney general Heather Barcinas appeared as counsel for the government. Assistant public defender Tillman Clark served as defense counsel.

Police arrested Webb last December for allegedly checking in at Paradise Hotel using a forged check in the amount of $319.25.

Police said Webb admitted to receiving several blank checks from Summer Holiday Hotel and writing at least seven checks amounting to over $400 at different stores on Saipan.

The Office of the Attorney General originally charged Webb with one count of theft and three counts of forgery.

The OAG subsequently amended the information to charge the defendant with only one count of theft.

Webb was previously convicted for stealing the credit card of the KZNM/KCMI radio station and purchasing gas and other items in the amount of $94.21 at the Shell Highway Express in Gualo Rai. In April 2015, he was slapped with a two-month prison term.
(Ferdie de la Torre)

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In your web browser go to mybilling.ite.net.
Select Enroll An Account.
Note: You will need your 13 digit account number prior to enrolling. (See your billing statement for the number.)
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Surveillance camera leads to arrest of woman

A surveillance camera has led to the identification and arrest of a woman who allegedly entered a bar in Chalan Kanoa, stole the bar owner's purse containing $7,000 and other items, then played poker.

Felisha Ann Basa, 32, was arrested and taken before Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio Tuesday on charges of theft.

Kim-Tenorio imposed a $10,000 cash bail and set the preliminary hearing for May 17 at 1:30pm.

Assistant public defender Matthew Meyer was appointed as counsel for Basa. Assistant attorney general Heather Barcinas appeared for the government.

Police Detective Jesus K. Wabol stated in his report that investigation showed that a businesswoman, who owns Boss Karaoke and Bar in Chalan Kanoa, placed her Louis Vuitton purse on top of beer cases in the storage at the bar in the evening of Dec. 4, 2015.

» Woman accused of stealing purse containing $7K at CK bar

When Korean customers came in and made orders, the owner went inside the kitchen and helped the cook.

The owner came back an hour later, and noticed her purse was gone. She checked the karaoke rooms, but could not find the purse.

The owner then called police and waited for their technician to review the surveillance camera.

The owner said based on their review of the camera's footage, they observed a woman who walked slowly into the bar, then ran out carrying the missing the purse.

The owner of Viva Poker, who happened to be one of the customers at Boss Karaoke, learned about the missing purse so he called his security guard to proceed to Boss Karaoke and review the footage.

A few hours later, the Viva Poker owner told the victim that the suspect was playing poker at Viva Poker.

The victim went to Viva Poker, but the suspect, who was later identified as Basa, got up from the chair and went out.

When the victim showed Basa the footage on her phone, the suspect denied it's her and ran outside.

The victim's male friend chased Basa and managed to stop her near Viva Poker building. While waiting for the police to arrive, Basa's boyfriend came, took her, and both then ran away.

Police said one local man chased Basa and her boyfriend. The local man later came back with Basa's purse containing $1,900. Police procured the money as evidence.

Last Jan. 13, the victim appeared at the Department of Public Safety and provided police detective Catherine B. Pangelinan a flash drive containing the surveillance footage on the theft incident.

Pangelinan identified Basa in the footage.

Wabol said during an interview last Feb. 12, Basa admitted she entered Boss Karaoke, took a purse on the table, and ran away.

Basa told police that she gave the purse to her boyfriend, Carlos Ramangmou. She said they then went to Viva Poker, where they gambled.

Wabol said Basa confessed that when the victim approached her about the purse, she and Ramangmou ran away.

According to court documents, police arrested Basa last March 24, but she agreed to assist law enforcement as a cooperating defendant, provided DPS would agree to release her without posting cash subject to some conditions.

The government agreed with Basa's request and asked the court to seal the case. The court granted the government's request.

Last Monday, Barcinas filed a motion to unseal documents and moved to revoke the agreement for Basa's release, after the defendant allegedly has not cooperated with law enforcement in ongoing investigations.

Kim-Tenorio granted the government's request. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

WHAT TO DO
IF A WILDFIRE APPROACHES
1 Call for help - 911 or 664-9003/4
2 Close all entrances, windows and other openings. Close shutters, heavy drapes, blinds and any other window coverings. This action is recommended to prevent sparks from blowing inside your house and igniting there.
3 Dress to protect yourself. Wear cotton clothing including long pants, long sleeve shirt, gloves and a handkerchief to protect your face.
4 Have tools and water accessible. Have a ladder, shovel, rake, and long water hose available. fill buckets and other bulk containers with water.
5 Wet down the roof. If your roof can burn, wet it down with a hose.
6 Prepare your vehicles. Back as many vehicles as possible into the garage, then close the door. In the event you evacuate, close the garage door behind you as you leave. If you don't have a garage or its full, park vehicles so they are heading in the direction of the evacuation route.
7 Evacuate the family. If evacuation becomes necessary, take your family and pets to a safe location.
LANDSCAPING
Be Lean, Clean and Green
Lean Prune shrubs and cut back tree branches. Large trees and shrubs should be pruned so that the lowest branches are at least 6-10 feet above the ground to prevent a fire spreading from the ground to the tree tops.
Clean Remove all dead plant material from around your home, including dead leaves and dry vegetation. Clear away flammable plants that contain oily resins and replant with fire-resistant plants. If you have firewood, stack it away from the house. Avoid using leaves for shade coverings.
Green Plant healthy fire-resistant vegetation. Ask a local landscaping specialist for suggestions.
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS OFFICIAL SEAL
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Telephone: 664-9003/4 (24hours)
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DFEMS

DFW chief asks court to allow conservation officer facing criminal case to return to work

Alvin Kaipat Fitial, a Division of Fish and Wildlife conservation officer who was recently arrested along with three men for alleged possession of three endangered green sea turtles, has not been suspended from his employment.

DFW Director Manny Pangelinan disclosed that he had a meeting with Fitial last Friday, wherein he informed the defendant that he has not been suspended and that he has no intent to put him on a leave of absence.

In his declaration issued on Monday, Pangelinan said DFW conservation enforcement is short-staffed and that he needs Fitial to assist with enforcement activities.

The DFW director's declaration was attached in Fitial's request for the Superior Court to modify his bail conditions in order to allow Fitial to return to his employment at the Department of Lands and Natural Resources DFW.

Attorney Charity R. Hodson, counsel for Fitial, requested the court to modify the bail order to permit the defendant to return to work at DFW in the limited scope of a desk assignment.

Hodson said Fitial has not been suspended from employment and that Pangelinan, with the consent of DLNR Secretary Richard Seman, requested the defendant to return to work.

Hodson requested that all other bail conditions remain in place and that Fitial's care, custody, and supervision be maintained by his third party custodian except during his work shifts, which will be daily from 7:30am to 4:30pm Monday through Friday.

Last April 21, the court allowed Fitial's temporary release to a third party custodian upon posting a $10,000 property bond plus other conditions.

Pangelinan said Fitial is needed for their enforcement activities that include desk job, inspection of fish vendors, monitoring cultural fishing activities that are permitted by DFW such as gill net fishing for fiesta and cultural events, and conducting outreach to students and the public.

Last April 27, Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio found probable cause to warrant the filing of charges against Fitial's three co-defendants Vicente Aldan Sablan, Anthony Pangelinan, and Jeffrey Iguel Teigita, for possession of an endangered/threatened species.

The offense carries a maximum penalty of six months imprisonment and a $5,000 fine.

Fitial, 51, posted a $10,000 property bond and waived his right for preliminary hearing.

Fitial was arrested for allegedly taking one of three live endangered green sea turtles that were caught by four fishermen and allowed the group to get two turtles and leave. One man who was with the group was not charged.

DFW Conservation inspector Erwin T. Flores stated in his report that it was Commonwealth Ports Authority Police Sgt. Vincent Billy who discovered the group of fishermen in possession of three live endangered green sea turtles in a restricted area at the Saipan seaport between 8:30pm and 9pm last Feb. 2.

Billy notified police and DFW about his discovery and Fitial responded to the scene. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

CCA board meeting on May 17

The Commonwealth Cancer Association's Board of Directors will be holding its regular Board of Directors meeting on May 17, 3pm at the CCA Conference Room. Agenda includes reports from the president and program updates. All board meetings are open to the public. For more information, contact the Commonwealth Cancer Association at 682-0050 or email at ccamarianas@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

Survivors and caregivers support meeting on May 12

All people facing cancer, their family members, and caregivers are invited to the next Commonwealth Cancer Association monthly support meeting scheduled for Thursday, May 12, 5:30pm at Hyatt Regency Saipan's Chamolinian Room.

To RSVP or for more information, please call The Commonwealth Cancer Association, Inc. at 682-0050 or email at ccamarianas@gmail.com or cca@ccamarianas.org. ***(PR)***

MINA's Green Gala rescheduled to Sept. 2

The Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance has announced that its signature fundraising event, the Green Gala, has been rescheduled from May 27, 2016 to Sept. 2, 2016. Those who have already purchased tickets can still use the tickets for the rescheduled event in September. For those who would like a refund of their purchased ticket, please contact the MINA office at 233-7333.

For over a decade, MINA has worked to become a leading conservation nonprofit organization in the Mariana Islands and throughout Micronesia through successful projects such as Tasi Watch, the Marine Debris and Adopt-A-Bin Programs, along with Schools for Environmental Conservation, the Plastic Bag Challenge, and the Managaha Sanctuary Pride Campaign.

In addition to great entertainment, dinner, and a variety of beverages, the Green Gala will feature highlights from MINA's projects and a silent auction. Previous galas have sold out due to the event's popularity. It promises to be a memorable evening. ***(PR)***

Ukulele lessons at JKPL

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library is now accepting registrants for its beginners ukulele class, to be held every Thursday from 4pm to 5pm. Classes, with Larry Lee as instructor, begins on May 12.

Classes will be held at the JKPL Children of Homeland Library and is open to children age eight years old or older and adults. The tuition is $50 for eight hours.

Deadline to register is on Saturday, May 7, with a minimum enrolment of 15 students and maximum of 40. This is a first come, first pay basis.

Students must also provide their own ukulele and a folder to hold their music sheets. Plastic sheet protectors and a three-ring binder are also recommended.

Parents and guardians must also sign a liability waiver form on behalf of their children, where they must adhere to public library policies and procedures.

For more information, visit the JKPL in Susupe or call 235-7316 or 235-7322. ***(PR)***

KagES now accepting kindergarten registration

Kagman Elementary School is now accepting new application for kindergarten for school year 2016-2017. Registration for kindergarten has started on April 11 and will end on May 13, 2016. Kindergarten registration is on a first-come, first-serve basis. Please come to KagES main office from 8:30am to 3:30pm to register your child.

The following documents are needed to complete the student registration process:

- Complete Registration Form (required)
- Student Health Certificate (original/required)
- Legal Guardianship/ Power of Attorney (if applicable)

Please note: Any child may be admitted to kindergarten at the beginning of a school year if the child's 5th birthday occurs on or before Sept. 30 of the school year for which the application is made. ***(PR)***

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Date: Friday, 13 May 2016 **RECRUITMENT DAY** **Time: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm**

Venue: Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, Banquet Hall - Azucena

Hotel Operations	
Manager - Laundry	2
Laundry Attendant	65
Housekeeping Attendant	90
Public Area Cleaner	60
Wardrobe Attendant	20
Seamstress	5
Front Office Agent	25
Valet Attendant	10
Bellperson	20
Steward - Kitchen	2

Hotel Operations	
Gardener	10
Floral Processor	3
Pool Attendant	20
Health Club Attendant	15

Hospitality	
Administrative Assistant	1
VIP Driver	20
Tour Operator	5

Food & Beverage	
Server	40
Runner	32
Bartender	43
Bar Back	31
Demi Chef - Western/ Chinese Cuisines	28
Commis Chef - Western/ Chinese Cuisines	54

Purchasing	
Manager - Purchasing	1

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FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON

Hard Rock Café adds five new food items on its menu as part of its Taste of Mexico promotion for the month of May.

Hard Rock spices things up with new 'Taste of Mexico' menu

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
frauleine_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Hard Rock Café franchise locations from all over the world are paying homage to classic Mexican cuisine and cocktails and Saipan is joining the fiesta!

Available for the month of May, the new Taste of Mexico menu that Hard Rock developed includes all-time favorite tacos, quesadillas, and vegetarian dishes, all of which incorporate traditional Mexican-inspired flavors.

"We make everything in house. All the spices we grind, the chilis are fresh. Everything is fresh made from our kitchen," chef Kotwal Singh said.

"It's simple, fast, and healthy," he added.

One item on Hard Rock Cafe's Taste of Mexico menu is the Yucatán Style Shrimp Ceviche, which Kotwal describes simply as kind of a Mexican kelaguen. It is a serving of diced steamed shrimp with lime, orange, avocado, and cucumber served with yellow corn chips, and offers a refreshing taste.

The Crispy Shrimp with Aji Amarillo Sauce, on the other hand, offers bold flavors as it features Panko breaded shrimp topped with queso fresco, spicy pecans, cilantro, green onions, and feta cheese drizzled with a zesty Aji Amarillo sauce

For vegetarians, Hard Rock offers Mexican Street Corn Fritters served with tomatillo salsa, lime crema fresca, cotija cheese, and habaneros.

Of course, if it's Mexican, there has to be some tacos and quesadilla!

Hard Rock's Fiesta Chicken Quesadillas is at least an inch thick with its shredded chipotle chicken served with grilled pineapple, cotija cheese, salsa queso fresco, mixed cheese, picante sauce, and a side of sour cream, guacamole, and picante sauce.

Their Mexican Street Tacos offer you a choice of carnitas, southwest chicken, or shrimp street-style tacos served in white corn or flour tortillas and topped with shredded lettuce, queso fresco, pico, cotija, picante sauce, and sour cream.

» Late night happy hours, band to start this weekend

The new menu offerings will also be paired with the Mezcal Cocktail Tour, a selection of adult drinks made with Mezcal, an agave-based distillate made through an ancient process over 500 years old, from Mexico.

The feisty drink, Amigo, is a cocktail of Los Almantes Mezcal mixed with Luxardo Liqueur, Blueberry Real, fresh lime juice, and Orgeat syrup.

According to Hard Rock Café, their guests' desire for bold flavors and unique dining options is the reason why they wanted to embrace ethnic and flavor-forward cuisine as part of the Taste of Mexico.

The addition of the new menu items reflects the brand's commitment to satisfying their customer's ever-evolving taste profiles and providing an authentic dining experience.

In addition to the new menu, Hard Rock Café Saipan will also be bringing back their happy hour!

Kotwal said these hours are from 10pm to 12am on Sundays to Thursdays and until 1am on Fridays and Saturdays.

"All the special drinks are at a lower price and the appetizers are up to 50 percent off," Kotwal said.

The Saipan branch will also be featuring a band every Friday and Saturday from 7:30pm to 11:30pm.

While Hard Rock's menu may sometimes look pricey, all the new items for the Taste of Mexico are priced below $18. Locals can always ask for the 10 percent discount and the service charge will also be waived.

"We want to entice the locals. That's the goal. We are love all, serve all…but tourists come and go," Kotwal said, "We give the experience."

FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON

Yucatán Style Shrimp Ceviche can be described as a "Mexican kelaguen."

FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON

Chef Kotwal Singh rolls out the Taste of Mexico offerings for Hard Rock Café Saipan.

FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON

Mexican Street Tacos offer a choice of carnitas, southwest chicken, or shrimp.

FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON

The Crispy Shrimp with Aji Amarillo Sauce features Panko-breaded shrimp topped with queso fresco, spicy pecans, cilantro, green onions, and feta cheese drizzled with a zesty Aji Amarillo sauce.

FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON

Hard Rock Café also offers special cocktails dubbed Mezcal Cocktail Tour for the Taste of Mexico.

DPL, KAN PACIFIC SETTLES FOR $1M

Deal paves way for completion of RFP

The Department of Public Lands is pleased to announce that it has resolved its dispute with Saipan Entertainment LLC, Kan Pacific Saipan Ltd., and Imperial Pacific International regarding Kan Pacific's interest in the Mariana Resort and Spa property and DPL's RFP for a new lease. In that action DPL alleged that the agreement between Kan Pacific and Imperial Pacific announced in December was an attempt by Imperial Pacific to eliminate competition in DPL's RFP; and that Kan Pacific's previous assignments and subleases of public land were void because Kan Pacific failed to comply with its lease and seek DPL's prior approval.

As oart of that settlement, Kan Pacific Saipan represented that it did not have the financial ability to submit a proposal that was responsive to DPL's Request for Proposals.

By dismissing all claims brought in the lawsuit, Kan Pacific and Imperial Pacific agreed to each pay $500,000 to DPL to resolve its claims. Moreover, Kan Pacific agreed to terminate its lease early if the winning bidder under RFP 15-RED-006 requests its lease to commence before Kan Pacific's natural expiration in 2018.

DPL Secretary Marianne Concepcion-Teregeyo remarked, "DPL is pleased to resolve this matter and to remove any barriers to completion of its RFP on time and without interference. This settlement reaps a significant reward for the Commonwealth, removes the threat of litigation by Kan Pacific to prevent award of a new lease to the winning bidder, and paves the way for DPL to begin collecting significantly higher rents for our public lands in Marpi as soon as July or August of this year." ***(PR)***

'In Memoriam' celebration set for October at AMP

The traditional hour-long In Memoriam celebratory ceremony, hosted by the Saipan & Northern Islands Municipal Council for the past two years to honor and memorialize civilian casualties and victims of World War II on Saipan and the Northern Islands, welcomes the participation of various local agencies and the mayors of Saipan and the Northern Islands in this year's planning committee.

Chair Antonia M. Tudela is elated in welcoming this year's community support network and thanked the members and all interested individuals and organizations to join this year's community event planning activities.

The Marianas Memorial at the American Memorial Park is dedicated in memory of Chamorros and Carolinians of the Northern Marianas who died during World War II.

The In Memorian event memorializes those "caught in a war not of their making, the people of Northern Marianas, like many civilians throughout the Pacific, became victims of war that was forced upon them. The Marianas Memorial remembrance blessing honors Chamorros and Carolinians who lost their lives as a result of this war, beginning with the aerial bombardment on June 11, 1944 on Saipan to the closure of the civilian Camp Susupe on July 4, 1946."

» Event honors, memorializes civilian casualties of WWII

Doris Drew of the Women's Affairs Office will take part in the event and will be joined by representatives of the office of Carolinian Affairs and Indigenous Affairs, the Office of Veterans Affairs, and Matt Chargualaf, a member of a local veterans group.

The council this year also reached out to *Marianas Variety* and *Saipan Tribune*, two local newpapers, to join this year's planning group.

On May 5, 2016, the planning committee met at the American Memorial Park conference room to kick off the planning for the October event at the park.

Joan Aquino represented Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, while Northern Islands Mayor Jerome Aldan was present for the planning meeting.

Del Kaipat represented the Carolinian Affairs and the full membership of the local council.

The discussion centered on the roles and responsibilities of the respective participating agencies, including the local council with the program to be further discussed on the June meeting.

Last year, the ceremony kicked off with the traditional cultural rites, "Ma guaifi I kulu lali and hukun I taotao-ta." The chant was performed by Luis John Castro, while John Oliver Gonzales was master of ceremony and introduced Frankie Eliptico to perform last year's In Memorian.

Candlelight vigil and silent meditation were performed by the Christian Mothers of Saipan, followed by the wreath laying led by council secretary Reina Camacho who was assisted by John Tagabuel and the mayors, and the blessing of the monument that concluded the event rendered by Father Sid Ogumoro.

Mensahin Agradesinmentu was performed Frances M. Sablan, while the invocation was performed by Father Ogumoro and benediction by Pastor John Manglona.

The soothing melodic musical chorale, led by Marianas High School's Ruthi Fruit, underscored the solemnity of the occasion in its rendition of the U.S. and CNMI national anthems and other special musical selections, accented by the Saipan Southern High School JROTC posting and retiring of the colors.

This year's In Memorian pre-celebration will kick off earlier than the usual time in July on live talk show.

Apatang and Aldan will join the council members and followed by the other members of the planning committee, including prominent members of the community who have experienced and have vivid memories of the pacific war on Saipan.

Speaker forums involving invited scholars is also part of the educational outreach activity this year. Film at the park on the Pacific War on Saipan will add to the community education effort, including essay contest by students.

The planning committee welcomes ideas and other contributions from the community to help make this year's event successful and memorable, said Tudela. ***(PR)***

Saipan, NI Ag Fair rulebook out

Information about all the offerings for the 2016 Saipan and Northern Islands Agricultural Fair can be found in its rulebook, which are available online as well as in print.

These books contain not only descriptions of each event, but also specify their rules and regulations. Print copies are available at the Agriculture office in Kagman, Northern Marianas College-Cooperation Research Education Extension Services in As Terlaje, Animal Health Industry office in As Perdido, and the DLNR main office in Lower Base. They can also be found online at deq.gov.mp/sec.asp?secID=18

The Ag Fair is slated for Saturday, June 25. Prizes for the plant category total $7,000 while animal category shall reach $4,000. Farmers and ranchers are encouraged to start preparing their crops and livestock for entry, and need to pre-register.

The Saipan and Northern Islands Agricultural Fair Association is also seeking community organizations that wish to conduct outreach activities at the fair grounds to express interests today. Also, should you want to promote your business or product, you can submit your advisement to be included in the 2016 Ag Fair Program Book.

The 2016 fair will take place on Saturday, June 25 at the Public Market in Garapan. The venue has changed from the Susupe site due to the damage sustained to the 4-H building.

For general inquiries, please call DLNR at 322-9834. SNIAFA will lead the fair and is supported by the CNMI Farmers Cooperative Association, the Department of Lands and Natural Resources, Bureau of Environmental & Coastal Quality, Department of Public Lands, NMC-CREES, and the Office of the Mayor of Saipan. ***(PR)***

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REQUIREMENTS:
- At least 16 years old
- Most recent official school transcript with an overall minimum 3.5 GPA submitted in a sealed envelope
- Recommendation, preferably from a prior instructor, advisor, dean, or principal
- Legally authorized to work in the CNMI
- Computer experience using Microsoft Applications

Some positions may also require a valid driver's license.

To apply, students must complete an IT&E application and submit it, along with the other required documents noted above, to the IT&E Human Resource office, located at the IT&E Susupe Headquarters no later than May 18, 2016. **All inquiries must be made by the student and not the parent.** The student may call 234-6600.

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INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW-16-IFB-010

Supply, Delivery and Installation of Playground Equipment

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for **Supply, Delivery and Installation of Playground Equipment, Tanapag Children's Park**, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after **April 28, 2016** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **May 16, 2016, 9:00 a.m. local time** at the Project Site, located at Tanapag Children's Park, Tanapag, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **May 18, 2016** to **Mr. George C. Sablan, Acting Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Mr. George C. Sablan, Acting Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgment of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/9838 no later than ten (10) Calendar days before the scheduled bid opening.**

Sealed bids must be marked "**DPW-16-IFB-010**". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m. local time, June 03, 2016.** Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **10:00 a.m. local time, June 03, 2016**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **June 03, 2016** and the BID documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **June 13, 2016**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at **10:00 a.m. local time, June 15, 2016**. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:00 a.m. local time, June 03, 2016.**

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (**$25,000.00**) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashiers check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety requiring approval of the Attorney General must be pre-approved prior to bid submission.** Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations **§70-30.3-245.** The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

1) Cash
2) US Gov't Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is **One Hundred Twenty (120) calendar days** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed at the rate of **One Hundred (US$100.00)** for each and every day the work is delayed beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ **PETER P. CAMACHO**
Acting Secretary of Public Works

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
Director of Procurement & Supply

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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EDITORIAL

Latin America's 'pink tide' is fading fast

It was around the time we were coping with Y2K paranoia that the swing to the left throughout Latin America began knocking down dominoes.

Hugo Chavez stampeded into power in Venezuela in 1999 and reassembled the oil-rich South American state into a leftist nightmare for America. Then came Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and his brand of social welfare in Brazil in 2002, followed by the Kirchners — Nestor and Cristina—in Argentina, onetime coca farmer Evo Morales in Bolivia, Rafael Correa in Ecuador—the list goes on.

Remember the vitriol? During a U.N. speech in 2006, Hugo Chavez stood before the world and said he caught a whiff of sulfur, a day after President George W. Bush had stood at the same podium to speak to the General Assembly. "The devil came here yesterday, right here," Chavez declared.

The so-called "pink tide" worried Washington, in part because Russia, China and Iran saw a chance to establish beachheads in the Western Hemisphere. Venezuela bought billions of dollars of arms from the Kremlin and conducted joint military exercises with Russia. Under Chavez, trade with China ballooned from less than $500 million to $10 billion. Both Morales and Chavez cozied up to Iran and its president at the time, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

Now the pendulum is swinging the other way.

Venezuela teeters on the edge of economic and political implosion. The country is running out of everything — electricity, running water, eggs, milk, even toilet paper and beer. Inflation runs in the triple digits. Chavez's embattled successor, Nicolas Maduro, is fighting for his political life after opposition parties wrested control of parliament in elections last December and are now trying to set up a referendum to authorize early elections.

With fewer than 100 days before the world comes to Rio for the Olympics, da Silva protege Dilma Rousseff faces a vote in the Brazilian Senate, possibly as soon as Wednesday, on whether to move ahead with her impeachment — a proceeding that could lead to her ouster. The Brazilian economy, mired in its worst recession in 80 years, is slated to shrink for the second year in a row. Oh yes, and the Zika epidemic shows no signs of abating.

In La Paz, the luster of Morales is fading. His bid to change Bolivia's constitution so he could run for a fourth consecutive term failed. Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner, who succeeded her husband in 2007, lost her re-election bid to Argentine center-right leader Mauricio Macri last fall. And in Ecuador, President Rafael Correa has said he will not seek a fourth term in 2017.

Reasons for leftist upheaval across the continent vary depending on the regime, but one common theme threads through the trend. The economies of these countries have been steadily slowing to a crawl. Flagging oil prices and drops in demand for other commodities have fueled the slowdown, but to varying degrees the leftist regimes have mismanaged their bids to put their countries back on track.

See LATIN on Next Page

Lao Ye Ye

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com.

I've used the word on our title before. In Chinese, it refers to "grandpa," an endearing name one of my grandkids call me after he learned it in pre-school. It literally means, "old, old man." So, the yin-yang dynamic is operational; an appealing term as well as an objective word!

I might have gotten in the last six months my share of being addressed "Sir" and "Po" to last me 10 years but at 70-71 of age, it comes with the territory. It does not help that I teach first graders at an elementary school, which seems to elicit incredible admiration for patience and endurance, guiding the start of the formal 16-year journey these students take to finish college in the U.S. system. I write regular opinion pieces for the dailies, and my light gray hair now outnumbers the dark grays, and that is a lot of grays.

I am revisiting the process of aging since it is very personal. Every little physiological faux pax I make is a glaring reminder that I've crossed the seventh decade. I have become a clutch at the house, dropping things in the bathroom and the kitchen; now I have come to shy away from glass bottles and stick to plastic so as not to step on wayward shards on the floor.

Parents and guardians wait with their first graders until I open the class door at 8am for the students to come in. Previous teachers had trained them to line up but I tend to skew the barking "Sarge" routing so I let them decide to voluntarily get into a classroom mode after chasing their breath on the playground. They had never been given that much "freedom" before, to decide and choose.

One parent whispered to her daughter that her teacher "looked like a grandpa." My student replied, "He is." That, I am!

It is a bit of a disadvantage, however, not to be conversant on the language of the young, in this case, the too young. The supplementary workbook I prepared for my 40-day students compliments the PSS core curriculum, the latter by itself a bit too formal for my taste, and my understanding on how humans learn. But it is the prescribed PSS core components so I have to directly work it into my "lesson plan."

Noticing how the class quickly got into the mood of singing their "Universe" and "Freedom" songs, I asked what other songs they sang. They immediately started singing the young Canadian Bieber's (I lived in Canada before he was born) song "Sorry" that my students hear their older siblings listen to and sing frequently, but would not have yet any idea what the song was about, but they could mimic Justin Bieber's apologies. I was quickly chastened when corrected that Justin's last name is pronounced "Beeber" rather than my "Bye-ber", and I really felt ancient.

Then there was the song on what I though was Galloway, which I suspected must be someone famous until I connected to the Internet and learned of being "a call away." The idiom is, of course, related to one being easily within easy contact by phone; the children had not the slightest idea about the emotive type of accessibility it entailed, but they could belt out both songs.

One student behaviorally challenged with a penchant for lounging his head on the table if not stretching his body on the chair, is named John. I chanced on a country-western song over the radio titled "Big Bad John," a quiet big guy who inconspicuously worked in the mines, held on to a sagging timber and shoved it up to save 20 cohorts who scrambled up to safety while big John got caught on the ensuing billows of smoke that caught him at the end of his line. The song ended with a sealing of the pit and a marker for "Big, big man, big John."

I play the music once in a while, which seems to affect favorably our lackadaisical John for the new attention he gets, something not too unfamiliar to 23 different creatures. They were told of the 200 million odds that attended their conception, decidedly winners; they may be just "nobodies" in the universal scheme (one out of 7.4 billion folks at the moment, they can chose to be "somebodies" in the historical plain of their finite existence. To be unmistakably the "big, big somebody in history" is a choice they can make for themselves.

"Big, big" is, of course, a European bias clearing the path of excellence and pushing for accomplishment. I am about the plain "is-ness" of life of being "somebody" instead of being bedecked with medals in order to amount to anything. Ah, but to be afforded the chance to ontologically straighten the young from the start. That's a real head start I cannot fritter away.

But I was just musing down the alley of aging. After living off this side of NAP, life has not been comfortable, but to let a 6-8 year old understand that he is just beginning a 16-year journey of learning and impart some methods on how s/he can grasp the mental processes so that ze can take part fully in ze own learning, is a priceless pleasure. This aging one will not shy from the challenge, that is, if we do not forget that Fridays is Library day…

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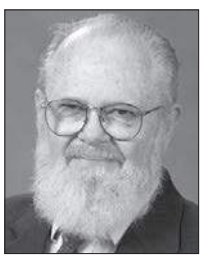
Trump needs money fast; isn't that an odd turn?



By ANDREW MALCOLM
Special to McClatchy

Malcolm is an author and veteran national and foreign correspondent covering politics since the 1960s. Follow him @ AHMalcolm.

In a strange election cycle of unexpected, unpredictable, often inexplicable events, here's the latest topper: The richest presidential candidate has money trouble.

If the real estate mogul with all the big buildings and the mouth to match really wants to win the White House — as opposed to simply blowing up the party of Abraham Lincoln — he's going to need more than a billion dollars for the general election campaign starting July 22.

Acquiring that much money that quickly is a bigger, more crucial challenge than all others.

Well, you say, Trump claims to have $10 billion, maybe more. We don't really know because he hasn't released his taxes. Trump boasts of being self-funded since the start. That's not really accurate either.

Having effectively clinched the GOP nomination, Trump reneged on self-funding, saying he'll begin accepting donations because he's reluctant to sell "a couple of buildings."

Trump is very late to fundraising. Most presidential candidates establish money-raising operations two years out. Trump's got 10 weeks until the national convention in Cleveland. He's just now talking with the Republican National Committee about joint fundraising.

Trump has four weeks until Hillary Clinton and her veteran fundraisers launch a nearly $100 million assault of attack ads to define him before he does. This tactic worked beautifully against that heartless-capitalist-vulture Mitt Romney in 2012 since the nominee-to-be was unable to respond. Again, that money thing.

Bernie Sanders, and Ron Paul before him, revealed the power of online fundraising from fervent followers.

With only a big DONATE button on his website, Trump has taken in — and spent — $12 million along with $35 million of his own money, which the "Art of the Deal" author has technically loaned himself, subject to repayment from donations. You don't get and keep billions without planning ahead.

Trump recently announced his chief fundraiser, Steve Mnuchen, another longtime Democratic donor from Wall Street. But there's another problem: Trump has spent nearly a year vilifying wealthy political donors as greedy special interests seeking favors. Much as he admits doing for years.

Now that Trump needs them, it's OK?

One, they don't trust him. Trump's unorthodox primary run destroyed an entire field of highly qualified Republicans for whom these GOP donors raised hundreds of millions.

Two, they see nothing conservative about the man who for years has been a wealthy benefactor of liberal causes and Democrats, including the woman he'll be running against.

And three, the landslide defeat of Trump, which current polls predict, would also sweep away a large army of down-ticket Republicans who were painstakingly assembled over many years at great cost. Perhaps a better investment this year is to bolster them.

And, anyway, how will beseeching big money go over with grass-roots Trumpers? Organizing bundlers? Authorizing PACs? Isn't this a betrayal of the standard politician Trump claims not to be?

Through April, the Clinton network going back to Arkansas had raised $217 million, lunch money in real estate perhaps but a giant head start for one campaign. Plus her Priorities USA super PAC has another $67 million to add to political spending by labor unions, Planned Parenthood and others.

Having said he'd need a billion bucks, Trump added, "I'm not even sure that's necessary because I have a big voice." Very true. Some estimates say the media magnet has gotten nearly a quarter-billion dollars in free exposure since last June.

But that was over 11 months. Fewer than six remain until Nov. 8. And Trump has no ground game. No policy shop. No opposition research arm.

The RNC can help. But all that takes money, a lot of money. Without it, the bombastic billionaire risks becoming the worst imaginable thing in his own world — a loser.

Palin, you have no relevancy in this election

By KRISTEN MCQUEARY
Chicago Tribune

Kristen McQueary is a member of the editorial board of the Chicago Tribune*. Readers may email her at kmcqueary@chicagotribune.com*

When entertainment news sites announced in March that Sarah Palin had signed onto a reality show modeled after "Judge Judy," many in the conservative movement cheered. And not because they were itching for more of Palin's disjointed, wild-eyed television appearances.

If she had her own TV show settling neighborhood disputes over dog poop, perhaps she finally would be cast aside as a credible spokeswoman for the tea party, the Republican Party or conservatives in general.

Alas, no. Reality show contract in hand, Palin still has managed to commandeer mainstream political news coverage — as she did Sunday with her pronouncements against U.S. House Speaker Paul Ryan of Wisconsin.

Palin told CNN's Jake Tapper that Ryan's hesitation to endorse Donald Trump would be a career-ender for Ryan because "he has so disrespected the will of the people, and as the leader of GOP, the convention, certainly he is to remain neutral, and for him to already come out and say who he will not support is not a wise decision of his."

Whoa. OK, so Palin is upset that Ryan isn't aboard the Trump Train yet.

She went further, declaring she would work to unseat Ryan. He faces a Republican primary challenge for his congressional seat this summer. Wisconsin's presidential primary was April 5, but the primary for state and congressional offices is Aug. 9. Ryan faces tea party candidate Paul Nehlen.

Palin is goodness-gracious-stinkin'-mad that Ryan said he is not willing to endorse Trump at this time. Most likely, neither are the 714,753 Republican primary voters in Wisconsin who voted for someone other than Trump. Ted Cruz — not Trump — won the Wisconsin primary, including Ryan's own congressional district. For Palin to paint Ryan as out of touch with his district doesn't make sense. He's perfectly aligned with it.

But then, expecting sensible proclamations from Palin would be like expecting James Joyce from a fortune cookie.

Palin tried to make the case Sunday that Ryan was one of those insider GOP establishment types trying to derail Trump's path to the nomination.

A few glaring irrationalities come with that characterization. Ryan has been the emergency brake to the "Never Trump" movement. Repeatedly, he shot down speculation and suggestion that he would step in at the GOP convention to take Trump's slot as the Republican presidential nominee. Ryan could not have been more clear that no, he would not do that, even if asked, cajoled, begged, recruited, kidnapped or forced at knifepoint.

Dousing Ryan with the "insider GOP establishment" taint is simply untrue. Ryan ascended to speaker because he was viewed as an independent, outside voice for moderate and conservative Republican members. The inside track initially went to Rep. Kevin McCarthy, the majority leader, who later bowed out. Ryan was not the establishment's pick.

Ryan has been among the strongest voices for fiscal conservatives in Washington. No one dared mention entitlement reform before he started talking about it. He has introduced and promoted plans that would turn parts of Medicare into a voucher program. He wants to streamline Medicaid by giving states more control through block grants. He advocates capping nondefense discretionary spending, consolidating the tax code into two tax brackets and reforming the way billions of dollars in federal poverty money is distributed. Those are not popular ideas.

For years, GOP leadership considered Ryan a backbencher because he was actually serious about getting spending under control. He wasn't part of the fraternity whose members merely talked about downsizing government. He wrote legislation to do it.

Palin wouldn't know much about Ryan's role in leading the discourse on spending discipline, though, because she was too busy learning how to pronounce "Ahmadinejad" in preparation for her television interviews during the 2008 presidential election.

Palin served a purpose. Her hockey-mom thing was effective. But her time is over. Her moment is gone. When she makes television appearances now, her desperation to be relevant oozes through the screen. She is spacey and mouthy and unpredictable. Perfect for reality TV but not to be taken seriously.

LATIN

From Page 10

That these backlashes have been fueled by populations fed up with failed leftist policies is music to Washington's ears. And it has all happened with virtually no coddling or stoking from the U.S. In fact, under President Barack Obama, Latin America has been a back-burner foreign policy priority. The only exception has been the president's historic rapprochement with Cuba.

It would be a mistake, however, for the next Oval Office occupant to ignore Latin America.

The failings of today's South American leftist leaders do not necessarily mean a complete, sweeping repudiation of leftist populism. The gap between the impoverished masses and the few wealthy elite still defines life for much if not all of the continent, making those countries susceptible to leftist agendas. Even in Argentina, where voters chose the center-right candidate over the leftist incumbent, Macri's margin of victory was less than 3 percentage points.

And while Latin America isn't the seedbed for terrorism that makes Middle East and South Asian hot spots top-tier foreign policy priorities for the U.S., it is no longer exclusively America's backyard. China has dramatically ramped up its economic presence in Latin America, and economic presence almost always translates into political presence.

The next president—whether it's Hillary Clinton or, dare we say, Donald Trump—will need to engage Latin America with a lot more purpose and resolve. If we don't, Russia, Iran and China will.

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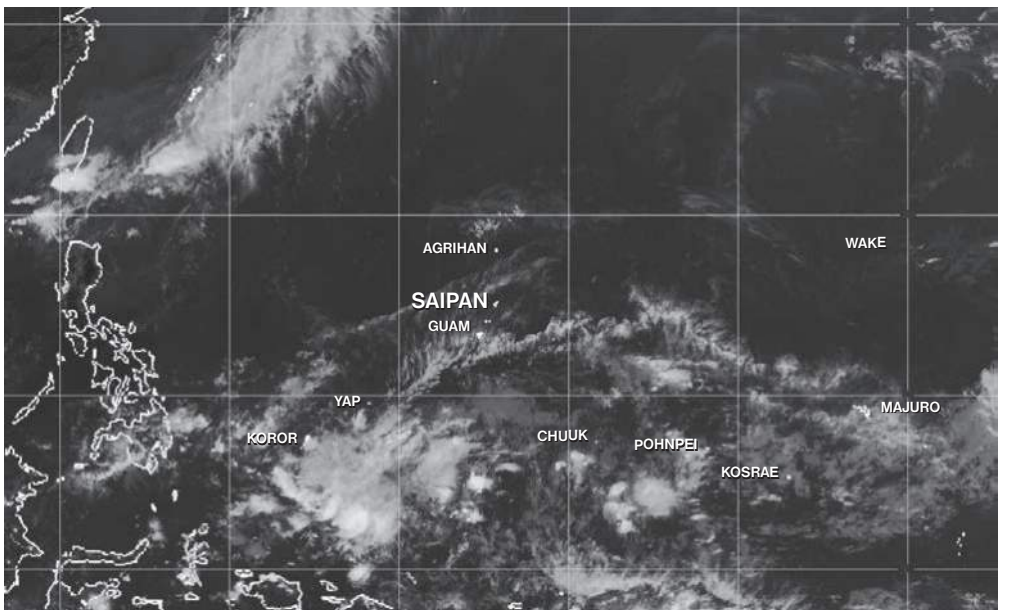
The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00 PM, WEDNESDAY, MAY 11, 2016

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface trough runs northeastward from west of Saipan at 16N143E to 21N150E. Scattered showers are seen near this system over the northern tip of the Mariana Islands between 18N and 21N from 142E to 153E. Another surface trough reaches southeastward from near Mindanao through 8N130E to a weak circulation centered southeast of Koror at 5N135E then continues northeastward to end northwest of Weno in Chuuk state at 11N150E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are occurring near the trough in three areas. They are northwest of Koror within 85 miles of a line from 6N131E to 11N134E northwest of Chuuk within 60 miles of a line from 8N143E to 9N149E and finally northeast of Chuuk within 60 miles of a line from 12N151E to 11N158E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are present near the circulation and south of the trough between 1N and 7N from 130E to 145E. Trade-wind convergence is coupling with divergent upper-level winds to trigger scattered showers and a few thunderstorms south of Chuuk and southwest of Pohnpei within 75 miles of a line from 6N150E to 4N153E to 6N158E. Similar conditions are also found near Kosrae but south and northeast of Majuro within 85 miles of a line from 8N160E to 2N168E to 13N180.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Thundershowers	▲88	▼80
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼78
Yap	Partly Cloudy	▲91	▼79
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼79
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼79
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼80
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼80

Around the Globe

Auckland	Cloudy	▲70	▼60
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲70	▼46
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼77
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲83	▼70
London	Partly Cloudy	▲75	▼51
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲77	▼57
Manila	Thundershowers	▲96	▼80
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲67	▼57
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼73
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲74	▼55
Osaka	Sunny	▲78	▼60
Paris	Rain	▲68	▼58
Pusan	Sunny	▲73	▼57
Rome	Showers	▲69	▼58
Salem	Sunny	▲85	▼51
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲66	▼52
Seoul	Sunny	▲76	▼55
Tokyo	Sunny	▲78	▼62
Washington, DC	Showers	▲70	▼58

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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides

Saipan Harbor

1:39 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
7:27 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet
11:56 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
7:23 PM	Today	Low Tide:	-0.1 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:49 AM	6:38 PM
Friday	5:49 AM	6:38 PM
Saturday	5:49 AM	6:38 PM
Sunday	5:48 AM	6:39 PM
Monday	5:48 AM	6:39 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	10:52 AM	11:52 PM
Friday	11:45 AM	
Saturday	12:36 PM	12:37 AM
Sunday	1:26 PM	1:20 AM
Monday	2:13 PM	2:00 AM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 10, 2016

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA2924	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA2922	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA2921	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA2920	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA2928	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA2926	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA2921	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA2921	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:20pm	7:05pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:35am	8:30am	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA2924/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2924/PR111	4:15am	9:15am	Daily via GUM
UA2922/183	8:40am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA2922/193	8:40am	10:35pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA2921/183	1:30pm	8:50pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA2921/193	1:30pm	10:35pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR
UA2921/191	1:30pm	8:55am+1	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA2920/183	2:20pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM
UA2920/193	2:20pm	10:35pm	2 via GUM-ROR
UA2920/191	2:20pm	8:55am+1	2, 6 via GUM
UA2928/191	6:05pm	8:55am+1	1, 2, 5, 6 via GUM
UA2926/191	9:50pm	8:55am+1	1, 2, 5, 6 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ626/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA2922/159	8:40am	9:55pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA2921/159	1:30pm	9:55pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA2920/159	2:20pm	9:55pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA2923	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA2925	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA2921	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA2920	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA2927	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA2929	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA2920	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA2920	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:30am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/2927	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA190/2929	9:55am	9:20pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA2925	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/2925	9:45pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA192/2920	9:45pm	1:50pm+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM-Rota
UA192/2927	9:45pm	5:35pm+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA192/2929	9:45pm	9:20pm+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/2925	11:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2920	11:30pm	1:50pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2927	11:30pm	5:35pm+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2929	11:30pm	9:20pm+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA116/2925	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2921	9:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA116/2920	9:55pm	1:50pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA116/2927	9:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2929	9:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure;ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

FHB's vice chair Raymond Ono to retire

HONOLULU, Hawaii—First Hawaiian Bank chair and chief executive officer Bob Harrison announced that vice chair and chief banking officer Raymond Ono will retire July 1, 2016 after a distinguished 38-year career with the bank. Mitchell Nishimoto, currently executive vice president and chief risk officer will assume the role of executive vice president in charge of the Retail Banking Group.

Ono joined First Hawaiian in 1978 starting in the bank's Loan Management Training program. Throughout his 38-year career at the bank, he has held leadership positions in the Business Banking, Wealth Management and Retail Banking Groups. Ono was promoted to vice chairman in 2007; and two years later he was promoted to chief banking officer in 2009 and served as chief operating officer from 2012 through 2015. Ono also served on the bank's Senior Management and Credit Committees. For the last seven years, he has overseen the bank's entire 62 retail branch network in Hawaii, Guam and Saipan.

Ono

"Ray has been an exceptional leader, mentor and friend to many of us during his 38 years with the bank. Throughout his career he has developed lasting community partnerships and has built deep connections with customers and our employees," said Harrison. "We are indebted to Ray for his dedication and years of outstanding contributions that have helped us grow to a $19 billion bank. On behalf of our First Hawaiian family, I especially want to thank Ray for his superb leadership and ability to unify our employees into one team."

"Working at First Hawaiian has been an incredible journey for me, professionally and personally. Throughout my career it has always been the people that mattered to me most, both customers and team members. I want to thank every one of them for being a part of my tenure at First Hawaiian," said Ono. "I am confident that together we have made a difference in growing the bank and in supporting our community, and I look forward to the next generation of leaders to achieve even greater success."

Nishimoto

Nishimoto, who has served as the bank's chief risk officer for the past two years, will succeed Ono as executive vice president in charge of the Retail Banking Group. Prior to his current position, Nishimoto had spent 28 years in the Retail Banking Group including managing the Kapiolani and Maui Banking Regions. He will continue to serve on the bank's Senior Management and Credit Committees. Active in the community, Mitchell currently serves on the boards of Castle Medical Center, Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii and the Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii.

"On Ray's recommendation, we have been working with Mitchell to ensure a smooth transition for our team members and customers as part of our succession planning." Harrison also noted, "While no one can replace Ray, Mitchell is well prepared to continue our bank's success in building relationships and serving the community."

First Hawaiian Bank (www.fhb.com) with $19.1 billion in total assets was founded in 1858 and is Hawaii's largest bank. It is a wholly owned subsidiary of BNP Paribas, a leading global financial services institution. ***(PR)***

Guam to celebrate National Safe Boating Week

May 21 through 27, 2016 is National Safe Boating Week. The volunteer membership of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Guam Flotilla 2-24, together with the United States Coast Guard, Guam Boating Law Administrator's office, Guam Police Department Marine Patrol, Guam Fire and Rescue, the Guam Fisherman's Co-Op, National Weather Service, and local marine dealers want to remind local boaters to have the proper gear, and when it comes to life jackets to always, "Wear It!"

Everyone is invited to attend the celebration of Guam Safe Boating Week, part of the 2016 North American Safe Boating Campaign. Sponsored jointly by the U.S. Coast Guard, USCG Auxiliary, and the National Safe Boating Council, this week's activities are designed to increase the awareness and enhance the importance of safety for boaters and water sports enthusiasts. This campaign will kick-off with a Proclamation issued by the Lt. Gov. Raymond Tenorio.

There is also a display of safety equipment and capabilities of each participating agencies at the Agana Shopping Center on Saturday, May 21, from 10am to 3pm. Emphasis is on the use of life jackets as a key piece of safety equipment and the need to be worn at all times while afloat. Also highlighted is Rescue 21, the Coast Guard's advanced command, control and direction-finding communications system created to better locate mariners in distress and save lives and property at sea and on navigable rivers. Rescue 21 enables the Coast Guard to execute its search and rescue missions with greater agility and efficiency, and provide more reliable VHF marine radio communications throughout Guam and the CNMI.

As a continuing effort to promote safe recreational boating, the Coast Guard Auxiliary will once again be visiting various sites around the island providing safe boating information.

Free Vessel Safety Checks are also available at a time or location by contacting the Auxiliary.

The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary is the uniformed volunteer component of the United States Coast Guard created by an Act of Congress in 1939. The Auxiliary supports the Coast Guard in nearly all of the service's missions. For more information on National Safe Boating Week Activities or the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, call Guam Flotilla National Safety Boating Week Activities Chairman Brian Duenas, at 489-3761 (brian.duenas@fe.navy.mil) or Co-chair Patrick Atherton, at 727-6999 (pat.atherton.ctr@fe,navy.mil). ***(PR)***

Uncle IDs Hawaii kids police say were killed by their dad

HONOLULU (AP)—An uncle of two Hawaii children police say were shot to death by their father was given the grim task of identifying their bodies, police said Tuesday.

"We were trying to avoid that," Hawaii Police Capt. Robert Wagner said. "It's a lasting impression."

But with limited dental records available—none for the younger child—police asked their mother's brother for help even though it would be traumatic for him, Wagner said.

Police said they were 7-year-old Clara Hoffman and 5-year-old John Hoffman.

Their father, John Ali Hoffman, remained held on $2.75 million bail and is also charged with murder in the death of his wife. Earlier, police used fingerprints to identify her as Aracely Hoffman, whose name before marriage was Aracely del Carmen Monroy Urruela. Documents found in their home show they were married in 2008, police said.

John Hoffman called police early Friday saying three to four intruders entered the house and shot his wife, according to court documents. Officers who arrived about 1:30 a.m. saw Hoffman driving away in a car with headlights off. They pulled him over, saw a handgun in the front passenger seat and blood dripping from the trunk, police said.

Inside the trunk, police said they found Aracely Hoffman dead with a gunshot wound to her head. The children were dead inside the house, also shot in their heads, police said.

A hearing is scheduled for June 14 to discuss findings of a panel of doctors ordered to evaluate Hoffman's mental health, said his court-appointed defense attorney Brian De Lima.

Aracely Hoffman immigrated to Hawaii's Big Island from El Salvador with her brother in search of a better life, said Rose Bautista, an attorney on the island who helped her with immigration issues and went to Mass with her at Malia Puka O Kalani Catholic Church.

"She came however often as she could come," Bautista said, noting that the Hilo church is about 25 miles away from the rural Puna neighborhood where the Hoffmans lived. She appreciated fellow Spanish-speaking parishioners on an island with only a small Salvadoran community, Bautista said.

Her husband wouldn't allow the children to be baptized in the Catholic church, Bautista recalled.

"I know there were some language difficulties," Bautista said. "That's why she sought comfort in coming to a church ... where she could speak the language."

A bigger source of stress for the couple was her immigration problem, Bautista said.

Married to a U.S. citizen, Aracely Hoffman would have been eligible for permanent resident status, commonly known as a green card. But there were some challenges to obtaining that status, which Bautista declined to discuss.

Bautista met John Hoffman when the couple first began dating and the couple went to her office after they got married.

"He was always angry at the world," Bautista said. "Angry at the system."

He didn't seem to direct that anger at his wife, Bautista said, and she never discussed problems in the marriage.

She kept a lot of things to herself, Bautista said.

"The thing with her, no matter what her situation was at home- which you knew wasn't the happiest—she always smiled," Bautista said. "She was always smiling . but you could see it was a painful smile."

ACG DONATES TO MTEC CONTRITED PHOTO

Alter City Group Inc. chief executive officer Edvon Sze contributes $1,000 to the organizers of the Governor's Tourism Cup. Accepting the check is Vicky Benavente, Marianas Tourism Education Council chair, and James Nelson, MVA Board of Directors and tournament director. Also in the photo is Ken T. Lin, managing director for Alter City Group.

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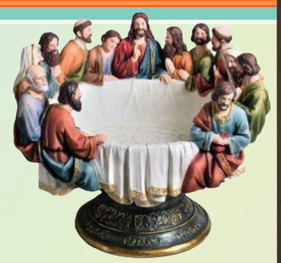
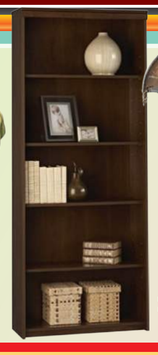


Wantech - Last Supper Fruit Holder 8"H $45.95



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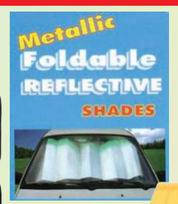

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Business

Staples, Office Depot scrap merger after judge blocks deal

WASHINGTON (AP)—Staples and Office Depot said Tuesday they are scrapping their planned $6.3 billion merger after a federal judge blocked the deal, saying the government had made the case that the combination would likely hurt competition in office supplies.

The Federal Trade Commission had sought to block the merger of the last two national office-supply chains. It contended the deal would allow the combined company to dictate the price of supplies, especially for corporate customers that buy in bulk.

U.S. District Judge Emmet Sullivan said in a ruling Tuesday that the FTC met its legal burden by showing it was likely the Staples-Office Depot merger would "substantially impair competition in the sale and distribution of consumable office supplies to large business-to-business customers." Regulators also succeeded in showing that blocking the deal would be in the public interest, he said.

The two companies said they will not appeal Sullivan's ruling.

Debbie Feinstein, who heads the competition bureau at the FTC, said the ruling "is great news for business customers."

"This deal would eliminate head-to-head competition between Staples and Office Depot, and likely lead to higher prices and lower-quality service for large businesses that buy office supplies," she said in a statement.

In December, the FTC rejected an offer from Staples to sell $1.25 billion in contracts in a bid to work around the competition issues.

Staples Inc., based in Framingham, Massachusetts, is the largest "big box" office-supply chain. Office Depot Inc., headquartered in Boca Raton, Florida, is No. 2.

Founded in the late 1980s, they were among a group of chains led by Wal-Mart that opened thousands of supersized stores for shoppers wanting to buy in bulk. But changing shopping patterns, like the demand for price deals and the move toward shopping online,

Kerry: Businesses using US sanctions as excuse to avoid Iran

LONDON (AP)—Businesses around the world are using the United States as an excuse to avoid doing business with Iran, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry said Tuesday as he declared the Islamic Republic "open for business" for European banks.

Kerry, ahead of a meeting on Iran with European bankers, said it was unfair and inaccurate for businesses to blame U.S. sanctions for their decision to stay away. He said the U.S. had an obligation to live up to the nuclear deal with Iran by clarifying what's now permitted as a result of that accord.

"If they don't want to do business or they don't see a good business deal, they shouldn't say, 'Oh, we can't do it because of the United States,'" Kerry told reporters in London. "We sometimes get used as an excuse in this process."

The top U.S. diplomat's comments came as the U.S. works to address Iran's complaints that it hasn't received the sanctions relief it was promised in exchange for rolling back its nuclear program. Under the deal, broad U.S. sanctions on Iran's economy were removed, clearing the way for foreign companies to do business with most Iranian companies.

Yet some specific Iranian entities, including companies associated with Iran's Revolutionary Guard, are still off-limits under sanctions punishing Iran for other behavior. And the U.S. maintains a prohibition on Iran accessing the American financial system or directly conducting transactions in U.S. dollars, fueling confusion and practical impediments given that international transactions routinely cross through the U.S. banking system.

"It's just not as complicated as some people think," said Kerry, who planned to discuss the concerns Thursday with top European bankers in the U.K. He said banks in Europe were free to open accounts for Iran, fund programs and lend money. "That's absolutely open for business as long as it's not a designated entity, period. Very simple."

Senators to airlines: Drop bag fees to shorten airport lines

DALLAS (AP)—Two U.S. senators say one way to reduce long airport security lines this summer is for airlines to drop their fees on checking luggage.

It's the latest suggestion for dealing with what could be a hellish summer at the nation's airports. Airlines are already warning passengers to arrive at least two hours early to get through security and catch their flights.

Massachusetts Democrat Edward Markey and Connecticut Democrat Richard Blumenthal said Tuesday they asked executives at 12 airlines to drop checked-bag fees this summer.

The senators say suspending the fees won't eliminate lines but it's a start.

A spokeswoman for the nation's largest airlines called the senators' proposal a misguided attempt to re-regulate airlines and warned it could make airline travel more expensive—fares would rise to offset the loss of income from fees.

Jean Medina of Airlines for America said it would be better if the Transportation Security Administration had more staffing at the busiest airports and encouraged more travelers to sign up for PreCheck, a program that lets known travelers zip through security faster without removing shoes, belts, jackets and laptops. Last week her group encouraged travelers to post pictures of long lines on social media with the hashtag #IHateTheWait.

Bag fees have grown rapidly since 2008, when American Airlines became the first big carrier to charge for checking even one bag. It was a tool that the then-financially troubled industry used to deal with rising fuel prices.

Since then, fuel prices have fallen and airlines have earned record profits. The bag fees have remained; they brought in $3.8 billion last year, according to government figures.

Many passengers avoid the fees by carrying more luggage on the plane, leading to competition for limited space in the overhead bins.

Markey and Blumenthal said the TSA told them that passengers using checkpoints near airlines that charge bag fees have 27 percent more rolling carry-on bags.

Medina, the industry spokeswoman, said her group has seen no data to support the TSA's claim. TSA declined to comment.

Long lines aren't limited to airports where the main airlines charge bag fees. Recently passengers tweeted pictures of long TSA lines at Baltimore and other airports that are dominated by Southwest Airlines, which does not charge for the first two bags.

Nation

Key Republicans swing behind Trump; he takes two primaries

WASHINGTON (AP)—Key Senate Republicans voiced optimism Tuesday about Donald Trump's presidential prospects in November, the clearest signal yet to the GOP rank and file to unite behind him and turn their energy against Democrat Hillary Clinton. But it was uncertain whether the doubters could be quieted.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell of Ky., with, from left, Sen. John Barrasso, R-Wyo., Sen. John Thune, R-S.D., and Senate Majority Whip John Cornyn, R-Texas, speaks to reporters on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, May 10, 2016. AP

Trump added two more primaries to his column, taking West Virginia and Nebraska. Clinton lost West Virginia to Sen. Bernie Sanders, who refuses to bow out as Trump's GOP foes have, but that hardly dented her huge Democratic delegate lead. Clinton won in Nebraska, but those delegates had already been allocated in an earlier caucus won by Sanders.

The presidential race was on lawmakers' minds on Capitol Hill, too.

"We have a nominee, it looks like he may well be very competitive, and we want to win the White House," Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., told reporters. He also said, "We know that Hillary Clinton will be four more years of Barack Obama. I think that's going to in the end be enough to unify Republicans across the country."

Still, doubt and angst over Trump remained palpable as GOP lawmakers returned from a weeklong recess that saw him effectively clinch the presidential nomination. For some, the question of whether they were backing their party's standard-bearer—a no-brainer in a normal election year—proved too much to answer.

"We're not doing any Trump questions today," an aide to Sen. Mark Kirk of Illinois told a crowd of reporters as Kirk, one of the most endangered Senate Republicans, sped into a meeting.

Another Republican who's

Eager to heal old wounds, Obama to visit Hiroshima

WASHINGTON (AP)—Eager to heal old wounds and galvanize new generations, President Barack Obama this month will become the first sitting American president to visit Hiroshima, where seven decades ago the U.S. dropped the devastating atomic bomb that ushered in the nuclear age.

By visiting the peace park near the epicenter of the 1945 attack, the president hopes to reinvigorate efforts worldwide to eliminate nuclear weapons. But in a sign of the extraordinary political sensitivities attached to the gesture, the White House is going out of its way to stress Obama will not come bearing an apology.

Deputy national security adviser Ben Rhodes said flatly: "He will not revisit the decision to use the atomic bomb at the end of World War II." Instead, Rhodes said in a statement, Obama will spotlight the toll of war and offer a "forward-looking vision" of a non-nuclear world.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who will accompany Obama on the visit, said no apology is expected—or necessary.

"The prime minister of the world's only nation to have suffered atomic attacks, and the leader of the world's only nation to have used the atomic weapons at war will together pay respects for the victims," Abe told reporters. "I believe that would be a way to respond to the victims of the atomic bombings and the survivors who are still in pain."

ACROSS THE NATION

3 dead including suspect in stabbing attacks at mall, home

TAUNTON, Mass. (AP)—Two people were killed and two others wounded in stabbing attacks at a shopping mall and a home in Massachusetts on Tuesday before an off-duty law enforcement officer shot and killed the suspect, authorities said. State police said a man stabbed two people at a Taunton home, then crashed a car through the front of a Macy's store at the Silver City Galleria and stabbed two other people at the mall. An off-duty law enforcement officer fatally shot the unidentified suspect. Witnesses described a chaotic scene and said that the mall was evacuated. The stabbing victims were taken to area hospitals, where two later died from their injuries. It's unclear if the two dead victims were stabbed at the house or the mall. Their names were not immediately released.

Utah's first-in-nation fetal pain law perplexes doctors

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—Utah's first-in-the-nation requirement that fetuses receive anesthesia or painkillers before some abortions takes effect Tuesday, but doctors say it's unnecessary and impossible to comply with. The law requires pain relief for a fetus before any abortion at 20 weeks of gestation or later, based on the disputed premise that a fetus can feel pain at that stage. Doctors say such pain relief is futile, and there is no science or medicine laying out how they're supposed to administer it. "The pain doesn't exist, so I can't make it go away," said David Turok of the University of Utah's obstetrics and gynecology department. They hope the steps they already take to alleviate a woman's pain during an abortion will be enough to satisfy the law.

Asia

China: US patrols justify its defensive deployments

BEIJING (AP)—Upping the ante in the feud over who is responsible for rising tensions in the South China Sea, China on Wednesday said repeated U.S. Navy patrols in the area are forcing it to boost the defense capabilities of the islands it controls and may require it to launch more air and sea patrols.

In a strongly worded statement, the Defense Ministry said it deployed two navy fighter jets, one early warning aircraft and three ships to track and warn-off the destroyer USS William P. Lawrence as it passed nearby Fiery Cross Reef on Tuesday.

"The provocative actions by American military ships and planes lay bare the U.S. designs to seek gain by creating chaos in the region and again testify to the total correctness and utter necessity of China's construction of defensive facilities on relevant islands," the ministry said.

"China will increase the scope of sea and air patrols based on need, boost all categories of military capacity building, resolutely defend national sovereignty and security, and resolutely safeguard peace and stability in the South China Sea," the statement said.

The U.S. destroyer's sail-by was the latest action by the U.S. Navy to reinforce its position that China's new man-made features in the strategically vital water body do not enjoy the legal rights of natural islands. Washington has said the Navy will sail and fly wherever permitted by international law and maintains there can be no limits on freedom of navigation as according to established practice.

The William P. Lawrence's sail-by took it within 12 nautical miles (22 kilometers) of Fiery Cross Reef, the limit of what international law regards as an island's territorial sea. The reef is now an island with an airstrip, harbor and burgeoning aboveground infrastructure.

China has added more than 1,200 hectares (3,000 acres) of land to its South China Sea island holdings by expanding existing islands or creating new ones by piling sand atop coral reefs.

The addition of airstrips and military infrastructure has Washington and others worried that China is attempting to assert total dominance over the region's waters and airspace that are claimed in whole or in part by five other governments.

Bangladesh executes leader of Islamist party

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)—The head of Bangladesh's largest Islamist party was executed early Wednesday for his role in acts of genocide and war crimes during the country's independence war against Pakistan in 1971, a senior government official said.

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan said Motiur Rahman Nizami, the 73-year-old leader of the Jamaat-e-Islami party, was hanged at 12:10 a.m. Wednesday inside Dhaka central jail amid tight security. A crowd of activists celebrated outside the jail.

The execution came a few hours after Nizami's family had visited him for the last time. His body was handed over to his family for burial in a family graveyard in the northwestern district of Pabna, his ancestral home.

"We buried him in the morning," said Abdullah Al Mamun, Nizami's cousin.

Jamaat-e-Islami issued a statement condemning the execution and called for a daylong general strike across the country for Thursday. But such protests usually get no major response from people.

Nizami refused to seek presidential clemency to commute his death sentence. A condemned man can seek such clemency from the country's figurehead president.

Nizami did seek a review of his death sentence through the judicial system, but the country's Supreme Court upheld his punishment.

Nizami was convicted of three major charges stemming from the 1971 war, including the killings of 480 people. He was also held responsible for the killings of dozens of intellectuals, including teachers, journalists and doctors, just two days before Bangladesh gained its independence in 1971.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Japanese welcome Obama's upcoming Hiroshima visit

TOKYO (AP)—Japanese are welcoming U.S. President Barack Obama's decision to visit the atomic-bombed city of Hiroshima. They expressed happiness Wednesday that he will come later this month after attending a Group of Seven summit in Japan. Those interviewed said they weren't seeking an apology. Obama will become the first sitting American president to visit Hiroshima, a city almost entirely destroyed by a U.S. atomic bomb in the final days of World War II. Some 140,000 people were killed, and others have endured after-effects to this day. An elderly woman who prayed in Tokyo Wednesday morning for the victims said she is "overcome with emotion when I think that someone who wants to offer understanding is finally about to arrive."

Kim Jong Un's younger sister gets new post during congress

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's younger sister is among the officials who won new posts at the country's ruling-party congress. The state-run Korean Central News Agency reported Tuesday that Kim Yo Jong was named a member of the Workers' Party of Korea's Central Committee during the congress that ended Monday. Kim Yo Jong has served as a vice department director with the Central Committee, which is among the party's leading bodies. Believed to be in her late 20s, she frequently appears at her brother's public events, standing out amid elderly male officials.

Afghan official: Car bomb kills 8 in eastern province

JALALABAD, Afghanistan (AP)—An Afghan official says eight people have been killed and another 18 wounded when a suicide car bomber detonated his vehicle in a remote district near the border with Pakistan. Gen. Zarawar Zahid, the chief of police in Nangarhar province, said on Tuesday that women and children were among the dead and injured. Zahid said the attack in the Nazyan district targeted a tribal elder who was also involved with organizing informal local militias against insurgents in the area. The border regions of Nangarhar have seen heavy fighting in the last half year, with insurgent groups battling each other and government forces.

World

Brazil president impeachment goes from longshot to likely

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—When a measure to impeach Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff was introduced to Congress late last year, the possibility that she would actually be removed from office seemed remote.

The charges against her were obscure, not the variety that spurs outrage: She is alleged to have broken fiscal rules in her handling of the federal budget to hide deficits and bolster an embattled government. The allegations also came with a good dose of irony: Her main opponents in Congress are accused of crimes much worse.

Yet, what started as a long shot bid has gained momentum and, as the Senate prepares to vote Wednesday on whether to put her on trial, many analysts consider Rousseff's ouster all but a foregone conclusion.

"Dilma will be impeached for a variety of reasons," said Marcos Troyjo, a professor at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs. "And the possibility of her coming back is zero."

If a simple majority of the Senate's 81 members vote to take up the impeachment measure, Rousseff will be suspended from office while a trial is conducted within the next 180 days. In the interim, Vice President Michel Temer will take over. A conviction, requiring a two-thirds vote, would remove her permanently.

Brazilian newspapers' polling of senators has found that around 50, many more than necessary, plan to vote for a trial. But it's not clear that all of those would also vote to convict her. A tally by the newspaper Folha de S.Paulo suggests that so far only 41 senators are willing to remove Rousseff from office permanently—13 short of the number needed.

The expected Senate action comes after the lower Chamber of Deputies voted 367-137 last month in favor of impeachment, an anti-Rousseff verdict so resounding that many Brazilians believe it will influence the Senate, where she has traditionally been seen to have more allies.

Most of Canada's oil sands production shut down by wildfire

EDMONTON, Alberta (AP)—The majority of Canada's oil sands industry has stopped production and will only start back up when it is "absolutely safe" but that should happen soon, Alberta's premier said Tuesday after meeting with company officials to discuss the impact of the massive wildfire that destroyed more than 10 percent of the homes and buildings in Canada's main oil sands city.

Suncor chief executive Steve Williams, the head of Canada's largest oil company, said about a million barrels a day went offline but said some of that has already started to come back. Alberta Premier Rachel Notley said the massive oil sands mines north of Fort McMurray have not been damaged.

Shell Canada said it had resumed production at its Albian Sands mining operations but at a reduced rate after a seven-day closure.

The wildfire that broke out a week ago has forced as much as a third of Canada's oil output offline and was expected to impact an economy already hurt by the fall in oil prices. Alberta's oil sands have the third-largest reserves of oil in the world behind Saudi Arabia and Venezuela. Its workers largely live in Fort McMurray, a former frontier outpost-turned-city whose residents come from all over Canada.

Notley said getting pipelines and electricity operational are priorities. She said getting production back online will be a matter of "days and short weeks."

"The majority of production has stopped, certainly not all of it, but the majority. If that were to continue for a month or two you would start to see measurable outcomes to our GDP," Notley said.

Notley said the halted production affects the livelihood of thousands of Canadians, with both companies and the government losing revenue. She said the main highway into Fort McMurray and to the mines to the north has been reopened for oil workers but they are not allowed to visit the city.

Amnesty: Babies dying in Nigerian military detention

LAGOS, Nigeria (AP)—Babies and children are among scores of people dying in military detention at a notorious Nigerian barracks where soldiers illegally hold suspected Islamic extremists, Amnesty International reported Wednesday.

Many detainees at the Giwa barracks may have died from disease, hunger, dehydration and gunshot wounds, the London-based human rights organization said, quoting witnesses, including former detainees, supported by video and photographic evidence. The barracks is in the northeastern city of Maiduguri, the birthplace of Nigeria's homegrown Boko Haram Islamic extremists. The city is now the headquarters for the Nigerian military's campaign against Boko Haram.

"The discovery that babies and young children have died in appalling conditions in military detention is both harrowing and horrifying," and comes despite repeated alarms over the high death rate of detainees in Giwa, said Netsanet Belay, Amnesty's advocacy director for Africa.

Amnesty has previously said that President Muhammadu Buhari has not kept promises he made days after his inauguration in May 2015 to investigate the alleged abuses at Giwa.

Military spokesman Brig Gen. Rabe Abubakar called Amnesty's report "a distraction."

"Our duty is to protect lives and that is what we have been doing," he told The Associated Press.

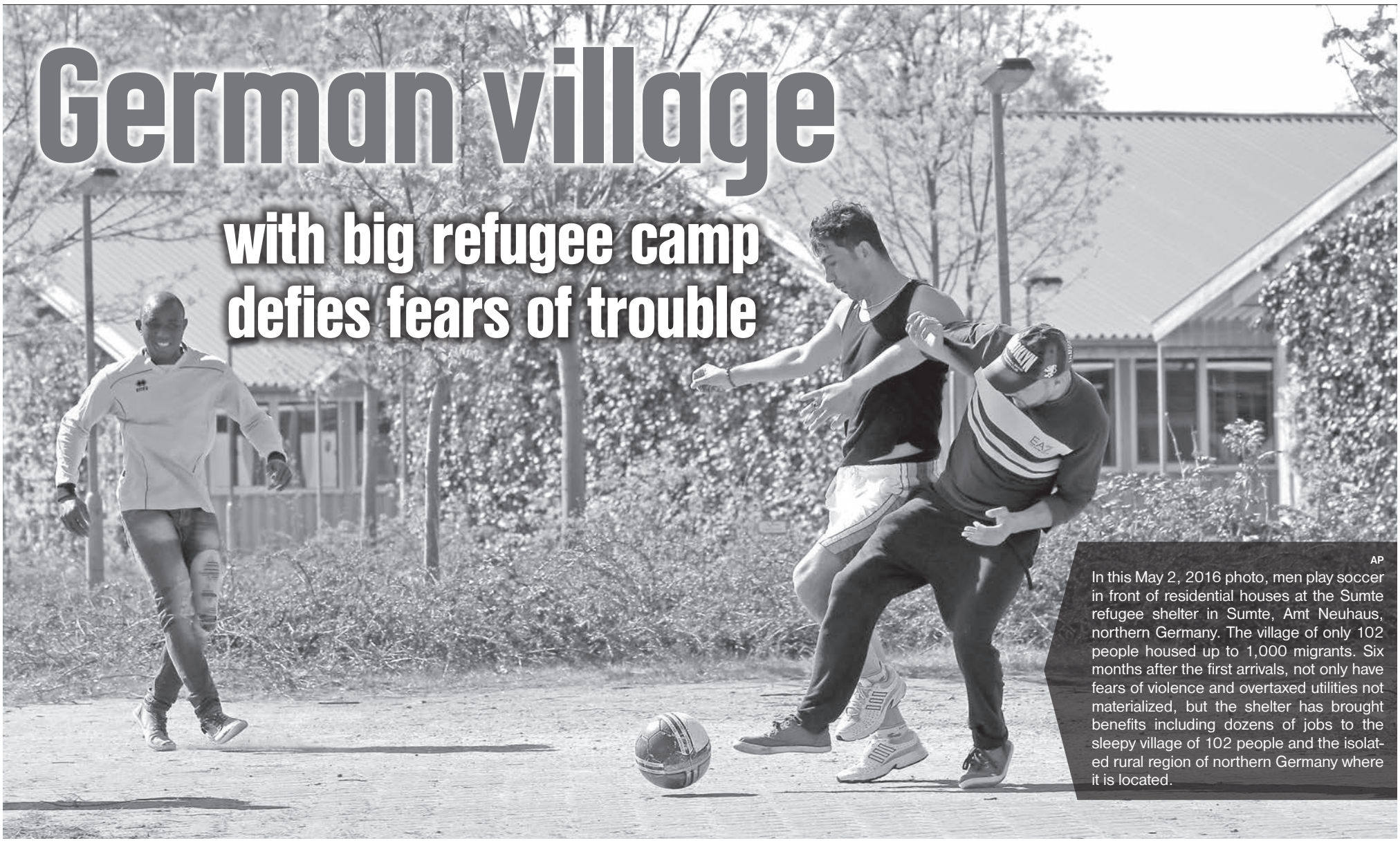
The Associated Pres reported in 2013 that some 3,000 detainees had died at Giwa in two months, according to mortuary records.

Today, detainee bodies are being buried in unmarked mass graves, Amnesty reported.

It called for Nigeria's government to shut the facility. The report said 149 people, including 11 children under the age of 6, have died at Giwa this year. Among them were four babies who apparently died of untreated measles. Detaining children, with or without their parents, is common in Nigeria.

Focus

German village with big refugee camp defies fears of trouble



AP

In this May 2, 2016 photo, men play soccer in front of residential houses at the Sumte refugee shelter in Sumte, Amt Neuhaus, northern Germany. The village of only 102 people housed up to 1,000 migrants. Six months after the first arrivals, not only have fears of violence and overtaxed utilities not materialized, but the shelter has brought benefits including dozens of jobs to the sleepy village of 102 people and the isolated rural region of northern Germany where it is located.

By GEIR MOULSON
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SUMTE, Germany (AP)—When state authorities called Mayor Grit Richter in October to tell her they planned to temporarily house up to 1,000 people from Syria, Afghanistan and elsewhere in a former office complex in the tiny village of Sumte, she couldn't imagine how it would work. The area is short on jobs, public transport and other facilities, and residents were anxious about the new arrivals.

Six months after the first arrivals, not only have fears of violence and overtaxed utilities not materialized, but the shelter has brought benefits including dozens of jobs to the sleepy village of 102 people and the isolated rural region of northern Germany where it is located.

There are few signs of friction, and if people still have concerns, they're not willing to talk to reporters about them. Residents have better lighting and more police, and some even hope the facility will remain after its planned one-year life span ends.

"What has been very positive is the jobs—that is very important—and the economic spring it has brought. That's needed here," said Richter, the mayor of the Neuhaus municipality, which includes Sumte. "It would be nice if it lasted."

She wasn't always so confident.

"My first thought was, my God, so many refugees, so many people in this building—Sumte's infrastructure can't deal with that ... and how are we supposed to do it?" recalled Richter, who got the call when the influx of migrants was at its peak. In all, nearly 1.1 million people were registered as asylum-seekers in Germany last year.

Germany has been the biggest destination for migrants in Europe, with several other countries reluctant to share the burden. And while Germans have generally been welcoming, that hasn't been the case everywhere: screaming anti-refugee mobs made headlines in some places, particularly in the ex-communist east.

At a sometimes heated town-hall meeting in the tiny next-door town of Neuhaus, residents raised concerns about children's safety, the prospect of many single men arriving and whether the sewage system would collapse, among other things.

"A lot of questions were asked, people were very anxious—but we saw in retrospect that these fears were unfounded," said Kim-Eileen Fischer, 20, who graduated from high school last summer and became deputy chef at the facility.

The first refugees arrived in early November, after a few frantic weeks knocking the building into shape. Jens Meier, who runs it, hired around 70 people to keep it going: security staff, people to work in the kitchen and medical center, administrators and others. He says more than 40 were local residents.

They include Sabine Schack, who landed a position running the laundry after losing her previous job of some 20 years and said it was "very nice, very important" to get the work after an 18-month sickness break.

"You have to take on the challenge and not go with prejudices," she says of the task of hosting the migrants. She's still in contact with two families who moved on from the facility, where people live for the first few months before being moved to more permanent accommodation.

Drive through Sumte—essentially a single street of well-tended houses, lined with blossoming fruit trees—and you could miss the facility entirely.

The single-story complex, once home to a debt-collection company that was the biggest local employer, is hidden down a side road on the village's edge, between fields with cows and horses. There's a bus shelter and nothing else. The nearest shop and snack bar are in Neuhaus, 4 kilometers (2 ½ miles) away. Many locals make long commutes during the week to Hamburg or the county seat, Lueneburg, but the refugee center has meant orders for local firms and jobs nearby for some.

AP

In this May 2, 2016 photo, a man carries laundry as he walks inside a residential house at the Sumte refugee shelter in Sumte, Amt Neuhaus, northern Germany.

Before the first migrants arrived, the sewage system and pumps were upgraded and more street lamps installed. They're now kept on overnight, rather than being switched off to save money. The municipality now has four police officers rather than two, and longer police station opening hours. The state government picked up most of the costs, while a lighting manufacturer also made a donation.

There have been minor problems, quickly resolved, among them a complaint about empty bottles being tossed into a field by youths gathering at the bus stop. The bottles were cleared up, camp residents told not to do it again—and another bus shelter was set up outside the refugee complex for young people to hang out in.

That apart, "everyday life has remained unchanged," Richter said. Locals have gotten used to newcomers in the local supermarket, to which the shelter runs shuttle buses. While there isn't much contact between migrants and locals, the refugees organized a Christmas concert that residents attended.

In the end, the number of refugees in Sumte peaked at 706. It's now down to 115, with no new arrivals since late February.

Sumte's remoteness, along with northern Germans' traditionally calm and reserved mentality, may have helped make the project a success.

"The quietness of this area may have played a certain role," said Meier, the shelter chief. "You can really wind down here, particularly if you come from turbulent circumstances."

Amir Sharafiddin, a 26-year-old from Homs, Syria, said the uneventful life is "not a problem" for people coming from a broken country—"it's good for them now."

A resident of the shelter for five months, he's now helping as an Arabic-English translator, saying he wants to give something back to Germans for fear they may "get tired."

"I cannot say something bad about Sumte," he said.

Environment

Despite the smog, Beijing bird-watchers succeed

By JONATHAN KAIMAN
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Li Qingxin bird-watches at the Yeyahu Nature Reserve in rural Beijing. TNS

BEIJING—The morning was off to a slow start.

"Spot-billed duck," said Terry Townshend, a British bird-watcher and five-year Beijing resident, as he sat in the driver's seat of his rental car peering through binoculars. "Common coot."

"That's a great crested grebe!" his bird-watching companion, Li Qingxin, shouted from the back seat.

"Where is it?" said Townshend.

"Long way away."

So they left the car, walked a few hundred feet and planted their telescopes on tripods. Then Townshend saw it — from a distance, only a speck scooting around at the periphery of a sprawling, dusty plain.

"That's a meadow pipit!" he exclaimed, homing in his telescope on a plump, brown bird with beady black eyes. He explained that the bird breeds in Central Asia.

"This is probably only the fourth or fifth sighting in Beijing," he said. "He must have gotten lost."

Beijing is notorious for traffic, construction and, above all else, smog—a thick, noxious haze that lies over the city on most days, burning lungs and cloaking cars and buildings in a thin layer of filth.

Yet in recent years, China's capital has also emerged as an unexpected destination for bird-watching. The city is located on a major flyway between northern Asia—where birds breed—and Southeast Asia, Australia and New Zealand, where they spend the winter, said Townshend, the director of EcoAction, an ecotourism and environmental education organization.

Beijing residents are growing more affluent and have more time to pick up hobbies. They are becoming more environmentally aware.

"Personally, I think people here are getting used to a higher living standard, materially," said Li, a conservationist who goes birding three times a week on average. "And now they're chasing something of the spirit—something more meaningful."

The Beijing Birdwatching Society lists 20 bird-watching destinations in the capital, most of them parks and nature reserves on the mountainous outskirts. Few birds besides sparrows and magpies live in the smog-choked city center, but a short car ride away, the wealth of species is a reminder that despite decades of environmental degradation, Beijing still has a lot to lose.

The status quo is far from secure; conservationists say that overdevelopment and trapping have put many of these species at risk. More than half the country's coastal bird habitats, mainly tidal mud flats, have already been lost, according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature. Moreover, although Beijing banned the trade in several wild birds in 2008, enforcement remains lax. Many species, some endangered, are caught and eaten or sold as pets.

Perhaps the most vulnerable is the spoon-billed sandpiper, a white-bellied wader. As few as 100 pairs remain in the wild, according to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Government-backed reclamation projects on tidal mud flats are the main reason for their decline.

"It's the highest-priority conservation issue in China right now, I'd say," Townshend said.

How China's air pollution affects its birds remains unclear, Townshend said. Although it might alter migration patterns for some species, most birds probably aren't exposed to it long enough to cause any major health effects. "Water pollution is probably a bigger problem," he said.

That Saturday, over about eight hours, Townshend spotted 55 species, including 60 buff-bellied pipits, 23 gray herons, four garganeys, three tundra bean geese, one Japanese tit, a black kite, an eastern buzzard and that lost and lonely meadow pipit.

"I think (Beijing's) diversity, in terms of number of species—and also the amount of birds, the actual numbers that you see—are very high," Townshend said.

Fu Jianping, president of the Beijing Birdwatching Society, said the organization—which arranges bird-watching trips and educational programs—has about 500 members, with 100 more signing on each year. "We have 30 to 50 people attending our weekly bird-watching activities in Beijing," she said, "and there are new birders coming every time.

"Bird-watching has existed in China for 20 years," she said. "That's a short time compared with Europe and the U.S. But I'm glad that with the efforts we've made, more and more Chinese have started to love bird-watching."

Many are as enthralled with the activity—and as proficient—as any bird-watching fanatic in the United States.

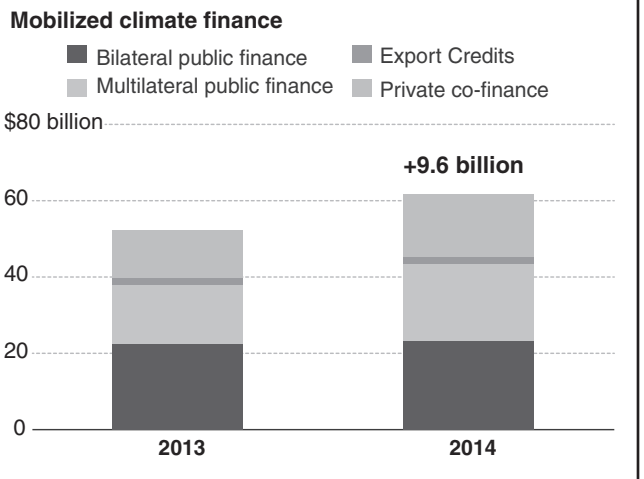
"I remember once when I was in the Baihe Valley (in the rural outskirts of Beijing)—it was winter, and not even a magpie was calling," Li said. "I was just sitting by a small hydroelectric dam. And just when I wanted to leave, there was a white-tailed eagle. It was only about (100 feet) high, flying overhead. At the moment, I thought I was dreaming or something.

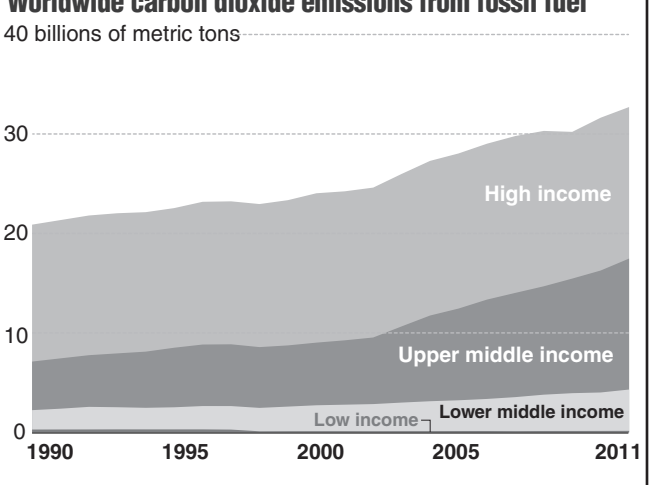
"I think the most amazing thing," she said, "are these kinds of surprises."

Terry Townshend bird-watches at the Yeyahu Nature Reserve in rural Beijing. TNS

World contributions to climate change

As of December 2015, 160 nationally determined contributions from 188 countries have been submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. These commitments include measures to reduce emissions, better manage the impacts of climate change on socioeconomic systems and ecosystems, and support national policies and planning.





Source: World Bank, Carbon Dioxide information Analysis Center; World development indicators database, Climate Policy Initiative, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development;
Graphic: Tribune News Service

Life & Style

Warrant: Minnesota doctor saw Prince, prescribed drugs

CHANHASSEN, Minn. (AP)—A Minnesota doctor saw Prince twice in the month before his death—including the day before he died—and prescribed him medication, according to contents of a search warrant that were revealed Tuesday as authorities returned to the musician's suburban Minneapolis estate as part of their investigation into what killed him.

Dr. Michael Todd Schulenberg treated Prince on April 7 and April 20, and he prescribed medications for the musician, according to the warrant, which was obtained by at least two news outlets before authorities moved to ensure it was sealed.

Investigators interviewed Schulenberg and searched a suburban Minneapolis hospital where he worked. The warrant did not specify what medications were prescribed or whether Prince took them.

Schulenberg's attorney, Amy Conners, declined to comment late Tuesday, citing patient confidentiality.

A law enforcement official has told The Associated Press that investigators are looking into whether Prince died from an overdose and whether a doctor was prescribing him drugs in the weeks before his death. The law enforcement official has been briefed on the investigation and spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media.

Schulenberg is the second doctor whose name has surfaced in the investigation. Last week, a lawyer for California addiction specialist Dr. Howard Kornfeld told reporters that Prince's representatives had contacted Kornfeld seeking help a day before the superstar was found dead on April 21.

On Tuesday, a sheriff's car and about a dozen unmarked vehicles entered the gates of Paisley Park. Asked what investigators were doing, Carver County Sheriff's Chief Deputy Jason Kamerud told the AP that they were "being thorough."

Kamerud declined to answer questions about the warrant that names Schulenberg, saying it was supposed to be sealed. Kamerud also said that after the contents were made public, he contacted a court administrator to ensure the warrant was sealed.

The warrant was carried out last Thursday at North Memorial Medical Center in the Minneapolis suburb of Robbinsdale.

Lesa Bader, a spokeswoman for North Memorial Medical Center, said Schulenberg was a primary care physician at its Minnetonka clinic but that he no longer works for the health care system. She declined to say why. No one answered the door at the doctor's home on Tuesday and phone messages left for him weren't returned.

Schulenberg's April 7 treatment of Prince came the day he canceled shows in Atlanta citing illness. Prince played makeup shows April 14. During his return home on April 15, his plane made an emergency stop in Moline, Illinois. The law enforcement official who spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity said Prince was found unconscious on the plane and that first responders gave him a shot of Narcan, which is used in suspected opioid overdoses.

Schulenberg told a detective that he was dropping off some results of tests that had been performed on Prince when he came upon the death scene, according to the warrant. Schulenberg also told the detective that he had prescribed Prince "medications" with the prescription to be filled at a Walgreen's.

The warrant sought "any and all medical records, documents, reports, charts, photographs, prescriptions, doctor notes and medical images for Prince Rogers Nelson."

The warrant also notes an interview with Kirk Anthony Johnson, a Paisley Park staff member and sometime drummer for Prince, who told another detective that Prince had visited the Highway 212 Medical Center not far from Paisley Park for "an illness" in 2014 or 2015. Johnson told the detective that Prince had been given fluids during the visit.

Carver County previously released a log of 911 calls to Paisley Park that showed a 53-year-old man, apparently dehydrated, taken to Highway 212 Medical Center in 2013. That man's age was given as 53; Prince would have been 55 at the time. A hospital spokeswoman said earlier she couldn't provide any information on patients due to privacy laws.

The people who found Prince dead included Kornfeld's son, Andrew Kornfeld, who had taken a redeye flight the night of April 20 but did not meet with Prince before his death.

The Kornfelds' attorney, William Mauzy, said last week that Dr. Kornfeld sent his son because he could not immediately fly to Minnesota. Mauzy said Dr. Kornfeld arranged for Prince to be evaluated by a Minnesota physician on April 21. The attorney refused to identify the Minnesota doctor, and it's not clear whether the physician was Schulenberg.

According to the Minnesota Board of Medical Practice website, Schulenberg has not been subjected to any disciplinary or corrective action in Minnesota or other states. He's a 1995 graduate of the Oregon Health Sciences University School of Medicine. His license status is listed as active. It expires Oct. 31 of this year.

The site lists no self-reported criminal convictions. State law requires the board to post felonies and gross misdemeanors that happened after July 1, 2013, in any state.

AP

A Carver County sheriff's vehicle enters through the gates of Prince's Paisley Park home and studio in Chanhassen, Minn., Tuesday, May 10, 2016.

Timeline of key events in last 2 weeks in Prince's life

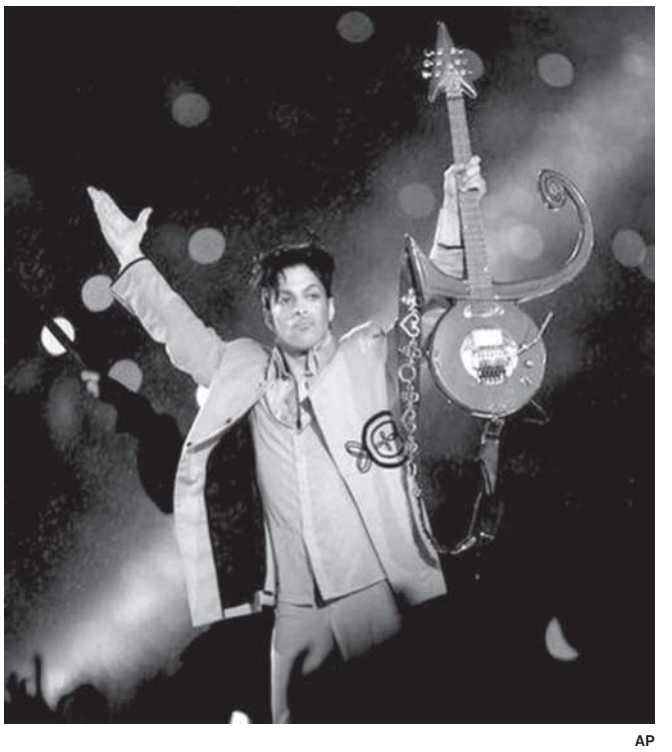
MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—A Minnesota doctor saw Prince twice in the month before his death—including the day before he died—and prescribed him medication, according to contents of a search warrant. Authorities are investigating what killed the musician.

Some key events in the last two weeks of Prince's life:

April 7—Dr. Michael Schulenberg, a Minnesota primary care physician, sees Prince, according to the search warrant. Also, two Prince concerts in Atlanta are postponed. The artist said at the time he had fallen ill with the flu.

April 14—Prince performs makeup concerts in Atlanta, apologizing to fans. He jokes about having been "under the weather," giving a slight smile. His voice seems a bit weak at times while speaking, but sounds fine when singing during his 80-minute show.

April 15—Prince falls ill on a flight home from Atlanta, and the plane makes an emergency stop in Moline, Illinois. A law enforcement official who spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media said that Prince was found unconscious on the plane and that first responders gave him a shot of Narcan, an antidote used to reverse suspected opioid overdoses.



AP

In this Feb. 4, 2007 file photo, Prince performs during halftime of the Super Bowl XLI football game in Miami.

April 16—Prince hosts a dance party at his Paisley Park complex and makes a brief appearance, showing off a new purple piano. "Wait a few days before you waste any prayers," he tells fans.

April 20—Prince is seen by Schulenberg again, according to the warrant. At some point, Schulenberg prescribed medications to Prince and ordered tests, according to the warrant, which does not specify what medications were prescribed or whether Prince took them.

April 20—Dr. Howard Kornfeld, a California addiction specialist, is asked by Prince representatives to help the star, according to Kornfeld attorney William Mauzy. Kornfeld sends his son, a non-physician, on a red-eye flight to Minnesota, carrying a drug used to treat opiate addiction.

April 21—Andrew Kornfeld and others find Prince unresponsive in an elevator at Paisley Park. Schulenberg arrived "on the death scene" at some point, according to the warrant. He tells a detective he was there to drop off test results, and that he had prescribed medications that were to be filled at a Walgreen's pharmacy.

Disney's movie business is again playing a starring role

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Magic Kingdom finally seems to be getting the hang of Hollywood magic.

Once upon a time, Disney just couldn't get a handle on the movie business. For every few "Iron Man"-style blockbusters, the studio had to dig itself out of the crater left by at least one "Lone Ranger" bomb.

But it brought in new studio management in 2012, pared its misfires—it hasn't declared a film write-down in three years—and revved up its multibillion-dollar acquisitions Pixar, Marvel and Lucasfilm. Just eight years ago, it was dead last in box office receipts among the six major Hollywood studios; this year, it's on pace for a record-breaking No. 1 spot. It's expected to get big assists from movies like "Captain America: Civil War," which kicked off the summer season last weekend, and "Rogue One," a second installment in its reinvigorated "Star Wars" series due this winter.

Disney's studio profits neared $2 billion last year. Some expect the studio to post nearly $3 billion in profit this year.

AP

In this image released by Disney, Anthony Mackie, from left, Paul Rudd, Jeremy Renner, Elizabeth Olsen, Chris Evans and Sebastian Stan appear in a scene from "Captain America: Civil War."

The momentum was evident Tuesday, when The Walt Disney Co. reported $2.1 billion in net profit, boosted by a 27 percent gain in studio profits to $542 million. Although the results fell short of analyst expectations, partly on poor performance of its soon-to-be-shuttered Infinity video game line, CEO Bob Iger touted "our studio's unprecedented winning streak at the box office."

The movie business has long gotten the cold shoulder on Wall Street because its frequent ups and downs make it tough to value. The pay TV business has been a much bigger and steadier source of profits, underpinning the stock price of entertainment companies from Time Warner Inc. to 21st Century Fox.

Cord-cutting, however, has media investors wary, particularly when it comes to Disney's ESPN sports empire , which has lost millions of pay TV subscribers. Those industrywide fears over consumers abandoning traditional TV for online video makes Disney's movie success even more important.

"It helps theme parks, it helps consumer products," said Jeffrey Logsdon, managing director of research firm JBL Advisors.

But while Disney's studio may be on a roll—even somewhat doubtful movies like "Jungle Book" and "Zootopia" have made a killing—the creative cycle can be cruel.

Disney shutting Infinity game unit, cutting 300 jobs

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Disney said Tuesday it is shutting down its Disney Infinity line of video games, saying the changing market is too risky.

The company booked a $147 million charge, mostly for unsold inventory. It also laid off about 300 employees, most of them based in Salt Lake City at Avalanche Software, a game studio Disney bought in 2005.

CEO Bob Iger told analysts the risks "caught up with us." Although the unit did well—bringing its interactive division into profitability in recent years—Disney determined it was better to manage the risks by licensing characters rather than developing video games from scratch, he said.

"That business is a changing business, and we did not have enough confidence in the business in terms of it being stable enough to stay in it," Iger said.

Disney Infinity, a platform that brought characters from its "Pirates of the Caribbean" into the same digital sandbox as those from "Cars" and "Frozen," was launched in 2013 as a way to jump on the "toys to life" bandwagon made popular by the game "Skylanders." Real-world action figures were placed on pads and meant to activate in the video game world.

When Infinity launched in August 2013, it helped Disney pull its Interactive business to profitability after years of losses, and it was a precursor to the Playmation line of smart, connected toys Disney launched last year. But diminishing sales of Infinity hurt the consumer products unit that was merged with the interactive division last summer.

The high cost of making Infinity came in stark contrast to "Star Wars Battlefront," a hugely successful game in which Disney licensed its characters and stories to Electronic Arts.

'Grey's Anatomy' star Jessica Capshaw has baby No. 4

"Grey's Anatomy" star Jessica Capshaw has announced the birth of her fourth child, a girl.

In an Instagram post , the 39-year-old actress says Josephine Kate Gavigan was born on May 2. She writes that she's "endlessly grateful for her safe arrival," adding that her "heart is so full of love that it threatens to burst."

Capshaw now has two girls and two boys with husband Christopher Gavigan.

She is the daughter of actress Kate Capshaw and the stepdaughter of director Steven Spielberg. ***(AP)***

AP

In this Jan. 20, 2016, file photo, Jessica Capshaw arrives at ELLE's 6th annual Women in Television celebration at the Sunset Tower Hotel in Los Angeles.

Jon Stewart labels Donald Trump a 'man-baby'

CHICAGO (AP)—Jon Stewart has been on the sidelines for one of the wildest campaign seasons in memory. But he's weighing in with a new dig at old foe Donald Trump, labeling the presumptive Republican presidential nominee a "man-baby."

The comments came in a Monday taping of a podcast with President Barack Obama's former aide, David Axelrod, at the University of Chicago.

Stewart joked that Trump has the "physical countenance of a man and a baby's temperament and hands," adding that as a "man-baby," he isn't sure Trump is eligible to run for president.

The former "Daily Show" host also took a swipe at likely Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton, describing her as "a very bright woman without the courage of her convictions."

Stewart left the Comedy Central program in August.

Opening the doors in a closed adoption invites hard decisions

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR ABBY: We have a child who was adopted through a closed adoption. We met the birth parents briefly at the hospital, but they wanted no further contact. Both birth parents had issues with drug abuse, and our daughter was born with drug issues, too.

A few years later we were contacted via the adoption agency by the paternal birth grandparents. They requested some photos because the birth father was getting out of jail and they thought the photos would help keep him out of trouble. We sent a nice collection of photos and an update on our child.

The next year, the birth grandparents sent a letter saying they would like more contact, including visits. They provided us with their names and contact info. The birth father, who now is back in jail, never contacted us and, as far as we know, does not want any contact. The adoption agency says they will pass on information between us, but doesn't have any advice on what we should do.

Our daughter is 6 and has expressed interest in her birth family. My husband wants no contact with the birth grandparents since neither of the birth parents consented to contact and it was a closed adoption. He is also concerned that our other adopted children may be hurt and jealous since they can't have contact with their birth parents for various reasons.

I am worried our daughter will be upset when she grows up that we never established a relationship with her birth family, but I really don't want to be involved with a family with such complex drug and legal issues. We have a large extended family, and our daughter sees her grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins all the time. Should we start a relationship with her birth grandparents?

UNCERTAIN DOWN SOUTH

DEAR UNCERTAIN: I agree with your husband, for all of the reasons you mentioned. Your daughter's birth parents made their wishes clear from the outset. You wouldn't be in this bind if you had respected them.

Because your daughter's birth parents are addicts, it is very important for her to understand that she may have a genetic tendency toward addiction herself. If she would like to locate her birth family when she is an adult, tell her you will help her then. But prepare her in advance so she will know what she's in for.

DEAR ABBY: I've never seen this question in your column. A female co-worker of mine wears a wig, and it's getting pretty scruffy. No one acknowledges her hairpiece, yet we all know she wears one.

If it were me, I would want someone to tell me it's time for a shampoo (or replacement?). When it was new, it was lovely. She's a wonderful person, and we don't want to embarrass her. Should we say something, or is it none of our business? Your thoughts?

WORKING WOMAN

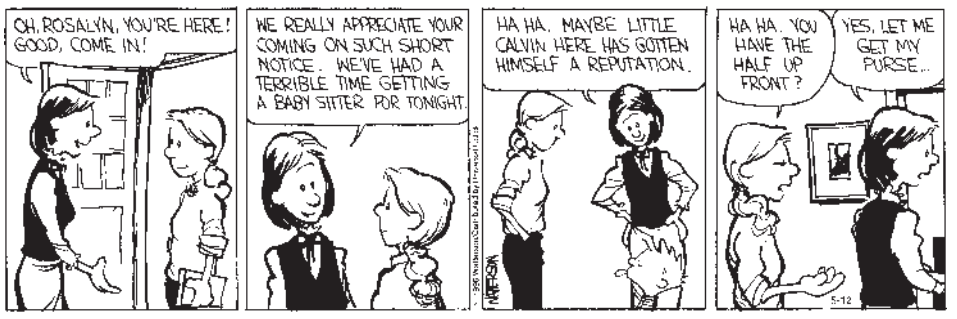
DEAR WORKING WOMAN: There is no way to diplomatically tell a person wearing a hairpiece that she (or he) is fooling no one or that it's looking ratty. If you do, it will cause embarrassment, or worse, hurt feelings. So resist the urge unless the woman asks for your opinion.

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


OH, ROSALYN, YOU'RE HERE! GOOD, COME IN!
WE REALLY APPRECIATE YOUR COMING ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE. WE'VE HAD A TERRIBLE TIME GETTING A BABY SITTER FOR TONIGHT.
HA HA. MAYBE LITTLE CALVIN HERE HAS GOTTEN HIMSELF A REPUTATION.
HA HA. YOU HAVE THE HALF UP FRONT?
YES, LET ME GET MY PURSE...

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

MOMMM!!
WHAT?
MY FAVORITE PONYBERRY FELL OFF A CLIFF!
I FEAR THE WORST! I CAN'T TAKE THIS TENSION!
CALM DOWN. I BET SHE'S OKAY.
IF SHE'S PANCAKED, I'M GONNA PUT THIS BOOK DOWN THE DISPOSAL.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

ARE YOU READY TO ORDER?
YEAH—DO THE DEEP-FRIED CHEESY STICKS CONTAIN MUCH GREASE?
HOW ELSE DO YOU THINK I GOT MY HAIR TO LIE DOWN LIKE THIS?

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

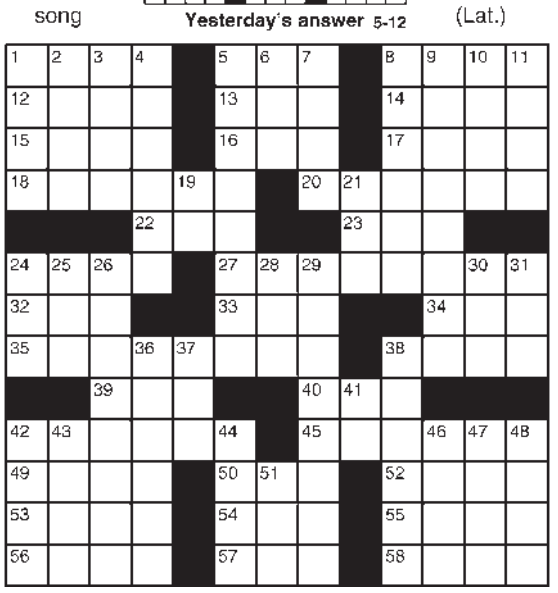
ACROSS
1 Santa's ride
5 Priestly garment
8 "This — outrage!"
12 — Alto
13 Privy
14 Memory unit
15 Always
16 Obese
17 Send forth
18 Ritzy appetizer
20 Mercury's counterpart
22 Consumed
23 "Sprechen — Deutsch?"
24 Org.
27 "Tea and —" (1956 movie)
32 Lad
33 Spy org.
34 Carnival city
35 Beethoven's "Eroica," for one
38 Church song
39 — de deux
40 Saute
42 Facades
45 Small pooch
49 Missing
50 — polloi
52 Bee's home
53 Actress Falco
54 Raw rock
55 Author Hunter
56 Out of play
57 "— Kapital"
58 "The Lion King" lioness

DOWN
1 Detail, briefly
2 Volcanic flow
3 Mountain ht.
4 Wilde's Gray
5 Out-of-doors, as dining
6 Mauna —
7 This and that
8 European peninsula
9 Feature of most crosswords
10 In — (even)
11 Tennis barriers
19 @
21 Mentalist's gift
24 Sit-up targets
25 Tofu source
26 Formal discussions
28 Feminine side
29 Short-lived insects
30 That fellow
31 Thither
36 Gasped for breath
37 DDE predecessor
38 Dash's kin
41 Egyptian sun god
42 Skedaddled
43 Went on horseback
44 Not barefoot
46 Prima donna
47 Ellipse
48 Ms. Rowlands
51 Mouths (Lat.)

Solution time: 25 mins.

Y	F	G	G	■	B	A	M	■	A	B	C	S
O	B	O	E	■	E	L	Y	■	N	E	A	P
D	O	W	N	B	E	A	T	■	G	A	V	E
A	N	N	I	E	■	■	H	A	T	E	D	■
■	■	■	U	T	A	H	■	L	O	B	■	■
■	J	A	S	■	S	O	R	E	■	A	D	D
A	N	A	■	E	T	H	I	C	■	C	O	O
D	O	C	■	L	A	U	D	■	E	K	E	S
■	■	K	O	S	■	M	E	I	R	■	■	■
■	I	D	I	E	D	■	■	M	O	R	S	E
E	A	R	N	■	D	R	O	P	D	O	W	N
A	M	O	K	■	A	A	A	■	E	N	I	D
S	I	P	S	■	Y	E	T	■	S	A	G	O

Yesterday's answer 5-12



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Clare Bowen, 27; Emily VanCamp, 30; Tony Hawk, 48; Ving Rhames, 57.

Happy Birthday: You'll face opposition when it comes to domestic matters or affairs of the heart. Try to stay grounded and focused on getting ahead and making improvements that will help you advance. Use your emotional energy to raise your standard of living by fixing up your residence or making a move that is conducive to your all-around success. Your numbers are 8, 15, 24, 28, 34, 43, 45.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Your desire to be first will help you succeed. Keep busy and participate in projects that could lead to a higher position. A chance encounter with someone from your past will remind you why you moved on. Network and socialize. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Take on monumental tasks and show everyone how efficient you are. Your courage and practicality will help you navigate situations to suit your needs. Romance is featured and will help position you for a brighter future. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): You'll be faced with a tough decision. Someone using emotional pleas to get your help will take advantage of you. Don't take on more than you can handle, and opt to put your energy into your important relationships. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Put a spring in your step and bounce into action. Helping others will give you a sense of accomplishment and encourage loyal friendships. Love is in the stars and will bring you happiness. Alterations at home look promising. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Don't worry about what everyone else is doing. Choose to do something you know you can achieve, and put everything you've got into reaching your destination. Let go of the past and focus on the future. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Live in the moment and concentrate on doing the best job possible. No matter what you are working on, keep an open mind and be willing to expand on the solutions you want to put in place. Romance is encouraged. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Walk away if someone tries to bully or pressure you. Don't fall into a financial scheme or joint venture that isn't in your best interest. Generosity is an admirable quality, but don't get taken advantage of. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Someone who sees things differently will inspire you. A partnership will be in your best interest. Set some ground rules in order to avoid misunderstandings. Keep your emotions out of the mix. Strive for equality in any relationship you pursue. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Excitement and adventure are likely to lead to regret. Think before you act or get involved in rumors or hearsay. Put your energy into making personal changes that will bring about a better lifestyle and a new and improved you. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Stick close to home and take time to look over personal papers. There is money to be made if you are creative in the way you invest and use your assets. Don't neglect someone you love, or an emotional situation will surface. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Direct your energy into expanding an idea or something you enjoy doing. Diversity will lead to a viable idea that can turn a pastime into a cash cow. Don't let anyone discourage you from following your dream. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Getting back to basics and reuniting with people who have encouraged you in the past will help you move forward and steer clear of anyone who is standing in your way. Surround yourself with positive people. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are enthusiastic and dramatic. You are passionate, decisive and demanding.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

				7		5		
		5			3		4	
	6	4	9		5			7
	5					9	8	
	1	7					6	
3			1		2	6	9	
	2		7			1		
		6		9				

Difficulty Level ★★★ 5/12

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	9	5	6	1	4	7	3	2
3	4	2	7	9	5	6	8	1
6	7	1	3	2	8	5	9	4
5	2	4	1	8	9	3	7	6
7	3	8	5	6	2	4	1	9
9	1	6	4	3	7	2	5	8
1	5	9	2	4	3	8	6	7
4	6	3	8	7	1	9	2	5
2	8	7	9	5	6	1	4	3

Difficulty Level ★★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

MAILCHIMP Solution: 9 letters

S	E	L	A	S	C	I	T	Y	L	A	N	A	B	S
T	M	A	B	L	O	G	G	I	N	G	U	I	E	E
R	O	T	I	N	O	M	M	S	I	T	N	G	H	D
O	F	E	E	D	R	A	E	A	O	T	M	R	A	A
P	B	U	L	K	G	R	P	M	E	E	W	O	V	R
P	T	N	K	E	V	M	A	G	N	E	E	E	I	G
U	C	E	S	I	A	T	R	T	B	Ⓢ	G	G	O	P
S	A	V	C	C	I	A	A	S	E	N	Ⓨ	R	R	U
E	T	E	T	O	T	T	I	M	E	Z	O	Ⓝ	E	S
R	N	R	N	I	I	T	A	P	P	S	I	T	Ⓒ	M
I	O	N	O	O	E	I	S	E	R	U	T	A	E	F
A	C	N	N	P	L	G	N	I	K	C	A	R	T	S
L	S	G	E	U	E	U	Q	D	E	S	I	G	N	N
M	U	I	M	E	E	R	F	E	V	O	M	E	R	A
S	T	N	U	O	C	C	A	T	N	A	L	T	A	P

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Accounts, Analytics, Apps, Atlanta, Automation, Behavior, Blogging, Bulk, Campaign, Contact, Design, Email, Features, Feed, Freemium, Georgia, Images, Integrations, Merge, Monitor, Notes, Queue, Remove, Reports, Revenue, Sales, Segmentation, Serial, Service, Snap, Support, Sync, Time Zones, Tracking, Upgrades, Website

Yesterday's Answer: Instructor

To purchase the **WONDERWORD MILLENNIUM SERIES #1 or #2**, order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contains 100 puzzles.)

CLASSIFIED ADS

EMPLOYMENT

MARIANAS OUTSOURCE LLC. is looking for 1 Full time Computer Specialist, Part Timer - 1 Grounds Keeper, 1 Commercial Cleaner, General Maintenance - $6.05/hr. Interested US qualified applicants send resume & police clearance at marianasoutsource@gmail.com.

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(1) Commercial Diver
Must have 3 years experience in Scuba Diving. Can speak English, Japanese and Chinese. Please send your resume at Santos_adonis@yahoo.com.
Contact No.: 323-2916

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SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL.: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEY FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

THE FINANCIAL & INSURANCE SERVICES GROUP, INC.,	:	CIVIL ACTION NO. 09-0345
Plaintiff,	:	**SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION**
-v-	:	
CHARLOTTE S. VILLAGOMEZ	:	
Defendant.	:	

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is served upon you hereby, within twenty-one (21) days after the fourth publication of this Summons, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE , LLC, the Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is Post Office Box 5222, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filling your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgement by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

DATED, this 12th day April, 2016 by order of the Court:

/s/ Clerk of Court

JOE HILL, Esq.,
HILL LAW OFFICES
P.O. box 500917, Saipan, MP 96950
Phone: (670) 234-6806/7743
FAX: (670) 234-7753

Attorney for Petitioner

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

TIANRONG YANG SABLAN	FCD DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 16-0182
Petitioner,	**SUMMONS**
Versus	
JOSEPH JR. D. SABLAN	
Respondent	

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONDED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Petition for Divorce which is given you herewith, within (30) days after service of the Summons upon you.

YOUR ANSWER SHOULD BE IN WRITING and filed with the Clerk of Court, Guma Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan, MP 96950 and served upon petitioner's counsel, Atty. Joe Hill, P.O. Box 500917, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, judgement by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Petition for Divorce.

By order of the above Court:

Dated this 4th day of May, 2016.

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court
Superior Court

BROADCAST LICENSE ASSIGNMENT

On April 29, 2016 an application was filed with the FCC to assign the license of stations KCNM (AM) Saipan and KZMI (FM), 103.9 MHz, Garapan-Saipan from Choice Broadcasting Company, LLC to Holonet Corporation.

The managers and members of the assignor are Richard C. Yu, Jeselyn T. Yu and Robert F. Kellye, Jr.

The officers, directors and owners of the assignee are Cecilia H. Lifoifoi, Hoth Holdings and Sophia Alvarez.

A copy of the application, amendments and related materials are on file for public inspection at KZMI-FM and KCNM, Sablan Bldg., San Jose Saipan.

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All positions close 5:00pm on Friday, May 27, 2016.
Applications are available at the Marianas Medical Center. Applications should include a resume and evidence of education degree(s) and professional licenses claimed. It should also include a valid Police Clearance of no more than 6 months old. Incomplete applications will not be considered.
Wireless Ridge Landscaping is an equal opportunity employer.

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Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as $30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$30
• 5-Liner	$24	$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

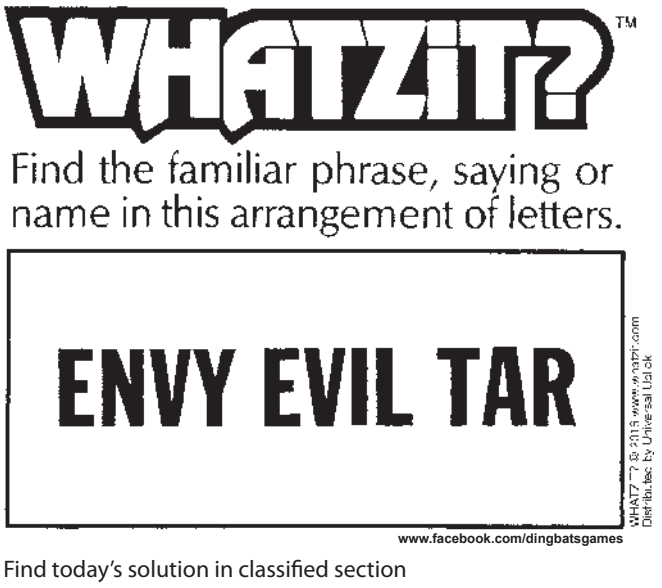
Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.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Westbrook leads Thunder to 3-2 lead vs Spurs

AP
Oklahoma City Thunder guard Russell Westbrook (0) drives to the basket against San Antonio Spurs guard Tony Parker during the first half in Game 5 of a second-round NBA basketball playoff series, Tuesday, May 10, 2016, in San Antonio.

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—Russell Westbrook couldn't be stopped down the stretch, not even when the San Antonio Spurs were trying to foul him.

Westbrook had 35 points, 11 rebounds and nine assists, and the Oklahoma City Thunder rallied in the fourth quarter to beat the Spurs 95-91 on Tuesday night and take a 3-2 lead in the Western Conference semifinals.

"We got stops and Russ was a maniac tonight, keeping us in it," Oklahoma City forward Kevin Durant said.

Durant added 23 points as the Thunder won for the second time in San Antonio in the series. Oklahoma City can close out the series Thursday in Game 6 at home.

"I hope we respond a little angry with a chip on our shoulder," Spurs guard Danny Green said. "If you want to be a championship team you have to win on the road. Simple as that."

But the Spurs have rallied from a 3-2 deficit only once in their prolific playoff history, winning the final two games in 2008 to defeat the then New Orleans Hornets.

After losing only once at home during the regular season, San Antonio has dropped two straight there now.

After Oklahoma City won Game 2 in San Antonio, the NBA acknowledged five incorrect non-calls in the final stretch. There were a couple calls the Spurs felt did not go their way in the final minutes Tuesday, but it was Westbrook who left no question of the outcome.

He sealed the victory with a three-point play with 6.3 seconds remaining, scoring after Kawhi Leonard was not able to foul intentionally, enabling him to drive for a layup while being fouled by LaMarcus Aldridge. Leonard said he "definitely fouled him" on the initial attempt, but Westbrook continued turning the corner and attacking the rim.

"He got away, attacked the rim and got an and-one," Spurs guard Manu Ginobili said. "Very tough outcome. I didn't watch the replay. I don't know how emphatic the foul was, but it's not the point. We should have arrived to that point in a better situation. For most of the game we were up. We had couple of opportunities to get a good lead. They made some tough shots and we couldn't capitalize."

San Antonio led 88-82 with 4 minutes remaining when Westbrook took over. He had seven points, two rebounds and an assist in the final 4 minutes.

"He dictated how we wanted to play," Durant said. "He was getting to the rim, knocking down the jump shot, knocking down the 3. So he had all levels working tonight. Once he does that, he's too dangerous because they play back on him not wanting him to get to the rim and he's knocking the jump shot down."

The Thunder took a 92-90 lead with 54 seconds remaining on a pair of free throws by Durant after Green fell into his legs when he appeared to be tripped by Steven Adams on an attempted screen.

Oklahoma City outrebounded San Antonio 54-36.

"The key was physicality," Thunder forward Enes Kanter said. "Me and Steven just went and tried to get every rebound. It worked out well for both of us."

Kanter had eight points and 13 rebounds, and Adams had 12 points and 11 rebounds.

Westbrook settled in after an erratic first half in which he committed six of the Thunder's 13 first-half turnovers. He only had two turnovers after halftime.

"I was overthinking the first half, overpassing trying to find ways to get my guys involved, making some bad mistakes," Westbrook said. "In the second half I was trying to do a better job of taking care of the basketball, especially with the game on the line."

Besides scoring at least 28 points for the fourth time in the series, the electrifying point guard had four offensive rebounds and two steals in 39 minutes.

The aggressive defense that brought Oklahoma City back into the series after an embarrassing Game 1 loss continued Tuesday night. The Thunder bodied the Spurs on the wings and then collapsed fully when San Antonio attempted to attack the lane.

Leonard had 26 points and Green added 20 points, going 6 for 9 shooting on 3-pointers. Aldridge added 20 points but shot just 6 for 21.

Curry is first unanimous MVP

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—From the jaw-dropping half-court heaves that somehow sink through the net to the dazzling drives and zippy passes from every which way, Stephen Curry's desire to keep getting better while always trying to entertain at every stop has the Golden State superstar being mentioned right along with the best ever, Michael Jordan and Magic Johnson.

And he just turned 28. There might still be so much more for the 6-foot-3, baby-faced point guard whose ability to make it on the big NBA stage was initially questioned by some.

On Tuesday, Curry accomplished something those former greats never did: He became the first unanimous NBA MVP, earning the award for the second straight season after leading the defending champion Warriors to a record-setting season.

"I never really set out to change the game. I never thought that would happen in my career," Curry said. "What I wanted to do was just be myself. ... I know it inspires a lot of the next generation, a lot of people who love the game of basketball to value the skill of it, value the fact that you can work every single day to get better. You've got to be able to put the time and the work. That's how I got here, that's how I continue to get better every single day.

Curry is the 11th player in league history to be voted MVP in consecutive seasons and the first guard since Steve Nash in 2004-05 and 2005-06. Curry received 1,310 points from the 130 media voters from the U.S. and Canada.

"I couldn't imagine anybody not voting him first, and yet there always seems to be somebody who has to stand out," Coach of the Year Steve Kerr said.

Curry was followed in the vote by Kawhi Leonard of San Antonio, LeBron James of Cleveland and Oklahoma City teammates Russell Westbrook and Kevin Durant. Curry's teammate Draymond Green was seventh.

Nash, Golden State's player development consultant, was on hand to congratulate Curry.

"It's been weird, I haven't had to say a word to him. It's been the easiest job," Nash said.

Curry is the first two-time MVP in franchise history, and Wilt Chamberlain (1959-60) is the only other Warriors winner. After guiding Golden State to its first championship in 40 years, Curry & Co. took that success even further to finish with 73 regular-season wins to top the mark set by the 1995-96 Chicago Bulls team that went 72-10.

In a stunning overtime performance Monday night, Curry showed exactly how he can take over a game in a matter of seconds. He returned from a sprained right knee to score 40 points—and 17 in overtime—in a 132-125 win at Portland to put his team up 3-1 in the Western Conference semifinals.

Curry was sore and fatigued but ready to go again.

"He wants it," Kerr said. "There's no ulterior motive. He just wants to be better. That's who he is."

Curry, now one of the most recognizable and popular athletes worldwide, was presented with his MVP trophy at Oracle Arena before trying to close out the series against the Trail Blazers at home Wednesday night. His teammates were on stage to cheer the latest accomplishment in a long list of them.

Warriors look to clinch; Heat, Raptors face pivotal game

MIAMI (AP)—Stephen Curry will lift MVP trophy. Dwyane Wade will try to keep lifting the Miami Heat.

And by night's end, the NBA's Final Four may be in more focus.

Curry and Golden State will host Portland in Game 5 of their second-round series on Wednesday night, the Warriors leading 3-1 and one win from another trip to the Western Conference finals. That game will be preceded by Wade and the Heat in Toronto, with their East matchup knotted at two games apiece after four extremely close—though not always aesthetically pleasing—matchups.

"I'm sleeping like a baby," Toronto coach Dwane Casey said Tuesday. "Waking up and crying."

The night will belong to Curry, announced Tuesday as the league's first unanimous MVP. He'll get to show the trophy to the adoring home fans at Oracle Arena before tip-off of Game 5 of that series.

It's a regular-season honor, but what he did in Game 4 on Monday night in Portland won't be soon forgotten.

Curry scored an NBA-record 17 points in overtime, finished with 40 in his first game back after missing two weeks with a sprained knee ligament, and helped the Warriors put the Blazers on the brink of elimination with a 132-125 win.

Put most simply, the MVP took over.

"When Steph would have a game like this last year, (former Warriors assistant) Alvin Gentry would say I've got two plays for you. 'Steph, get the ball' and 'Get the ball, Steph,'" Warriors coach Steve Kerr said. "Those were Alvin's two play calls so in Alvin's honor that's what we ran in overtime."

Wade will likely get a frosty reception in Toronto, with the national anthem faux pas from Game 3 still simmering.

It's what he's done after the anthems that is really troubling the Raptors.

He's been the best player in this East semifinal series. Wade led the Heat comeback from nine points down in the fourth quarter of Game 4, tying the series at 2-2. And with DeMar DeRozan (right thumb) hurting and Kyle Lowry reverting back to slumping form in Game 4 after a tremendous effort in Game 3, the Raptors have problems of their own.

"He was just D-Wade," Heat guard Goran Dragic said. "When you see him so many times, it's normal. He's unbelievable. ... It's much easier for us when he makes those plays in crucial moments."

Yankees overcome Royals, Cain's 3 HRs

AP
New York Yankees starting pitcher Masahiro Tanaka delivers during the first inning of a baseball game against the Kansas City Royals at Yankee Stadium in New York, Tuesday, May 10, 2016.

NEW YORK (AP)—Brett Gardner doubled home the tiebreaking run off Kelvin Herrera in the eighth inning, and New York overcame three home runs by Lorenzo Cain to beat reeling Kansas City, 10-7, on Tuesday.

In a back-and-forth game, Kansas City rallied from deficits of 1-0, 5-3 and 7-6 as Cain tied his career high with five RBI. Cheslor Cuthbert also homered for the Royals.

An error by Gold Glove shortstop Alcides Escobar led to Gardner's RBI double off Herrera (0-1) for an 8-7 lead. Brian McCann added a two-run double.

Aroldis Chapman, who returned from a 29-game domestic violence suspension on Monday, followed with a hitless ninth for his first Yankees save.

New York (13-18) trailed 2-1, 3-2 and 6-5 before winning for the fourth time in five games. The Yankees are 13-3 when scoring three or more runs.

World Series champion Kansas City has lost 11 of 14, dropping two games under .500 at 15-17.

Cain hit a solo homer in the third and a three-run drive in the fifth, both off starter Masahiro Tanaka. Cain added a tying homer off Andrew Miller (2-0) leading off the eighth and became the seventh Royals player to hit three homers in a regular-season game.

Cubs 8, Padres 2

In Chicago, Ben Zobrist went 4 for 4, Addison Russell had three RBI and the Chicago Cubs beat the San Diego Padres Tuesday night for their eighth straight win.

Jon Lester (4-1) pitched six innings of three-run ball as Chicago improved to 25-6 for the best start by a major league team since the 1984 Detroit Tigers won 26 of their first 31 games.

Tigers 5, Nationals 4

In Washington, Andrew Romine drove in the tiebreaking run on a play that withstood a replay challenge under the new slide rule, Miguel Cabrera tacked on a pinch-hit RBI, and Detroit overcame Ryan Zimmerman's two homers to beat Washington and end a seven-game losing streak.

Bryce Harper came up as the potential go-ahead run in the ninth, but closer Francisco Rodriguez intentionally walked the NL MVP to put two men on with one out for cleanup hitter Zimmerman.

Brewers 10, Marlins 2

In Miami, Jonathan Villar got two hits, stole two bases and scored twice, and Milwaukee won its rematch against Adam Conley by beating Miami.

Conley (2-2) won when he held Milwaukee hitless for 7 2/3 shutout innings on April 29 before exiting because of a career-high pitch count.

Orioles 5, Twins 3

In Minneapolis, Adam Jones broke out of a long slump in a big way, delivering the go-ahead, two-run single in the ninth inning after a towering homer in the fifth to lead Baltimore over skidding Minnesota.

Manny Machado also went deep while going 3 for 3 with two walks to raise his batting average to .365.

Red Sox 13, Athletics 5

In Boston, Mookie Betts, Hanley Ramirez and Travis Shaw each homered and Boston continued its strong hitting with a victory over Oakland.

The Red Sox had a season-high 16 hits. Jackie Bradley Jr. extended his major league-best hitting streak to 16 games as Boston won its third straight. Shaw tied his career-high with five RBI.

The Athletics lost their fourth consecutive game.

Indians 4, Astros 0

In Houston,Trevor Bauer pitched seven scoreless innings and Bryan Shaw and Cody Allen completed the four-hitter to help Cleveland over Houston for its sixth victory in the past eight games.

Bauer (3-0), who started the season in the bullpen, allowed three hits and struck out seven to extend his winning streak to a career-high three games.

Phillies 3, Braves 2

In Atlanta, Adam Morgan allowed only one run in seven innings, Mikael Franco homered and Philadelphia extended Atlanta's home misery.

Morgan (1-0) matched the longest start of his career, allowing four hits and one walk.

Franco hit his seventh homer off Matt Wisler (1-3) to lead off the eighth.

Blue Jays 4, Giants 0

In San Francisco, Matt Cain does not have a win since last July, though he remains confident in his stuff.

He took a big step forward Tuesday night, but Troy Tulowitzki, whether in a Blue Jays uniform or a Colorado Rockies uniform, continues to be a thorn in his side.

Tulowitzki, who grew just south of San Francisco, homered and drove in three runs in Toronto's victory over the Giants after entering the game with a .165 average.

Mariners 6, Rays 4

In Seattle, Dae-Ho Lee provided the decisive blow, but only after Seattle's power-hitting first baseman from South Korea shocked everyone by starting the at-bat looking as though he was going to bunt.

"That was not coming from the bench," Mariners manager Scott Servais joked.

Franklin Gutierrez hit a two-run homer in the first inning, Lee added a three-run shot in the fourth and the Mariners beat the Tampa Bay Rays.

Cardinals 8, Angels 1

In Anaheim, Matt Carpenter homered twice, including a leadoff shot on the fifth pitch of the game, and the St. Louis Cardinals had nine extra-base hits Tuesday night in an 8-1 rout of the Los Angeles Angels.

Randal Grichuk and Matt Holliday also homered for the Cardinals, who finished one shy of their season high for extra-base hits.

Mike Leake (1-3) took a shutout into the eighth inning for his first win with St. Louis after signing an $80 million, five-year contract in the off-season. He allowed six hits and one run in eight innings overall.

Dodgers 3, Mets 2

In Los Angeles, pinch-hitter Trayce Thompson connected for a solo home run with two outs in the bottom of the ninth inning to give the Los Angeles Dodgers a victory over the New York Mets on Tuesday night.

Thompson fought back from an 0-2 count against Hansel Robles (0-2) to get to 2-2 before homering into the left-field pavilion, snapping the Dodgers' four-game skid against the Mets.

Diamondbacks 5, Rockies 1

In Denver, these days, the Colorado Rockies' performance at Coors Field has been nothing to write home about.

Arizona has settled in quite nicely, though, especially pitcher Rubby De La Rosa.

The hard-throwing righty handcuffed Colorado all night as the Diamondbacks beat the Rockies for the latter's seventh straight loss at Coors Field.

It's their longest skid at home since 2012. The team record is nine in a row in 1993.

Rio Olympics: Anything from Halal to Kosher to Kimchi

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—The dining room for the athletes village at the Rio de Janeiro Olympics will be bigger than two football fields, and the kitchen being built in the same massive tent will be as large as one.

The setting hints at quite a spread when the games open in just under three months.

"We want to make sure when there is a medal or a record, part of that record also goes to our food team," said Marcello Cordeiro, Rio's director of food and beverages, in an interview with The Associated Press.

At its peak, the athletes village kitchen will prepare 60,000 meals daily, produced from daily shipments of 210,000 kilograms (460,000 pounds) of raw ingredients - all served up on 4 million biodegradable plates for 18,000 athletes, coaches and staff.

Diners will choose from five different buffets—Brazilian, Asian, International, Pasta and Pizza, Halal and Kosher.

Food for Muslim and Jewish athletes will adhere to their specific religious dietary laws. Koreans will even get spicy kimchee - the nation's famous fermented cabbage, scallions and assorted vegetables - shipped directly from home.

And everyone can try 40 varieties of Brazil's exotic fruits like caju, acai, carambola, caqui, goiaba and maracuja, often squeezed into Brazil's famously delicious juices (sucos in Portuguese).

The subsequent Paralympics will offer the same variety, though the numbers will be smaller.

"We are confident our Brazilian food is going to be a success, we'll make a bit more to be safe," Cordeiro said. "We are doing our best to bring the world to Brazil."

He listed key ingredients of the basic Brazilian diet: rice, black beans, farofa (flour from toasted cassava often sprinkled on top of food) and meat. But the regional specialties are as large as the continent-size country itself.

Buffet-style eateries are popular in Brazil, where they charge by the weight—so called "Kilo Restaurants." There will be no charge for the athletes.

"They can eat all they want,' Cordeiro said. "No scales. We know athletes know exactly what they need to eat."

To prepare the final menus, Cordeiro and colleagues are holding about 20 food testings before the Olympics open Aug. 5. They've been through seven or eight already, including one a few days ago.

"Imagine you start eating at 10 a.m. and you finish 8 p.m.," Cordeiro said. "Everyone thinks that food-tasting is super-duper, but this is how you eat."

He demonstrated, lifting a tiny sandwich slice up to his nose, one made of ham, mozzarella, cream cheese and lettuce. He checked for texture and presentation, and finally took a small bite. Next he graded the offering on a checklist.

"I'll tell you the truth, I can't stand the testing," he said. "This means eating the whole day. Actually, not eating. Tasting. You bite and you leave it."

Bears beat Falcons, keep perfect record in 1st round

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Chalan Kanoa Bears kept their unbeaten record in the first round of the 2016 Saipan Baseball League following an 11-8 victory over the Falcons last Monday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The Bears now hold a 7-0 record to stay on top of the eight-team field, while the Falcons dropped to a 4-3 mark for share of third place with Titanium. The defending champions GSM Brewers are in second place with their 6-1 mark, while the Aces (3-4), Yankees (2-5), North Starz (2-5), and Blue Jays (0-7) complete the standings.

The Falcons threatened to hand the Bears their first loss of the season after taking a 7-3 lead in the first six innings of the match. However, the Bears foiled the Falcons' bid with a seven-run top of the seventh and then held the latter to one run in the last three innings to steal the victory.

Franklin Lizama, Henry Lizama, A.J. Lizama, Angel Palacios, and Jerome Delos Santos had RBI singles in the Bears' seventh-inning rally with the latter adding a run off a wild pitch. The Bears got on more run off the Falcons error to grab the upper hand, 10-7, and made it an 11-7 advantage with Palacios hitting another RBI single at the top of the ninth.

At the bottom of the ninth, the Falcons remained in contention when leadoff batter Ricky Joe Riungel scored off Giovanni Mira's single with only one out. However, the Bears regrouped on the defensive end quickly with a double play on Mira and J.J. Lifoifoi.

Meanwhile, Titanium got its fourth win and snapped its three-game losing skid after downing the Yankees, 7-5,

Titanium gained cushion in the fourth and fifth inning, taking a 5-2 lead and hung on tight in the end to hand the Yankees their fifth straight loss.

After going scoreless in the first three innings, an RBI single from Jerald Cabrera put Titanium on the board in the fourth and he also reached off a sacrifice out from Joe Palacios to even up the count, 2-all. Kevin Kapileo had an RBI single and scored off a sacrifice fly from Gary Cruz for the Yankees's two runs at the top of the third. The Yankees then went without a run in the next three innings, while Titanium got three, giving the latter the upper hand.

Titanium had two runs off wild pitches and one more off the Yankees miscue in the fifth and then countered their foes three runs in the seventh and eighth with an two-RBI double from Manny Cabrera at the bottom of the eighth for the final tally. The scores did not change at the top of the ninth, as the Yankees were called for a 1-2-3 in the last.

Team building at Saipan Tropical Ekiden

The Marianas Visitors Authority is offering businesses, government offices, sports teams, community groups, families, and more the opportunity for team building with its newest signature event—the Saipan Tropical Ekiden set for June 4.

"Ekiden is a long-distance relay race originating in Japan, where universities, especially, show their school pride and form bonds through interscholastic competition. Like American football or other sports, it can become quite emotional as each team member contributes to the effort," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "It's going to be a great opportunity for businesses, community groups and others to bond over a common and physically demanding effort, a 3-hour relay marathon. Coworkers can also show their organizational pride by cheering their team on. The emphasis is friends, family, and fun."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Charlie Sendin cruises along Beach Road during a local race last month. The island's running enthusiasts are invited to join Saipan Tropical Ekiden set for June 4.

The 3-hour relay marathon in Garapan will feature two categories: composite division for ages 18 and older, and general division for any age (at least one member age 18 or older is required when minors are included on the team).

Each team will continuously run a 2K course from 5pm to 8pm, beginning at Garapan Fishing Base and through downtown Garapan, switching to the Saipan Beach Pathway for the latter part of the race into the evening.

General division teams may have two to 10 members. Composite division teams may register in groups of up to four members, who may be combined with other groups to form teams of five to 10 members.

Registration for CNMI and U.S. residents is $20/person for high school students and adults and $10/person for elementary and junior high students. A U.S. or CNMI Driver's License of CNMI ID is required. Entry fee includes the awards ceremony and barbecue following the race, memorial towel, and certificate of completion.

The race is organized by MVA and Japan-Saipan Cultural Exchange Association and supported by Hori Production and ORLAIGH.

Application and fact sheets are available under Events Calendar of mymarianas.com. For more information, contact MVA community projects specialist Ed Diaz at ediaz @ mymarianas.com or 670-664-3200/01. ***(PR)***

LEE

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Chieh Wei and Japan's Himeo Sakatsume. The Japanese bet, who is ranked No. 8 in the tournament, moved on after a 6-0, 6-1 triumph over compatriot Nanami Okamoto. The Chinese-Taipei player, on the other hand took the long route to the quarterfinals after surviving Japan's Mahiro Koga in three sets, 6-2, 3-6, 6-2.

At the bottom half of the draw, the quarterfinalists were the second-ranked and Chinese-Taipei's Yuelin Chen and Japan's Mana Kawamura, Shiho Tsukuda, and Saki Oyama. Oyama eliminated the U.S.' Casey Cummings, 6-0, 6-4, to set a Round of 8 duel against fellow Japanese Tsukuda, who pulled off a 7-5, 3-6, 6-4 victory against compatriot Sakura Hosogi.

Chen gave Chinese-Taipei its second quarterfinals ticket in the girls draw after ousting Hong Kong's Avril Look, 6-1, 6-1. Chen will be up against Kawamura, who booted out No. 7 seed and Palau's Ayana Rengiil 6-1, 6-1.

The 16-year-old Rengiil is also out of contention in the doubles as she and Lee lost to their Japanese foes in the afternoon quarterfinal match. Tomoka Yoshida and Sakatsume stunned the second-seeded Lee and Rengiil, 6-1, 6-1, to make it to the all-Japan semifinals where they will face Hosogi and Tsukuda, a 7-5, 6-4 winner over Kawamura and Koga.

The other Final Four pairing in the doubles event will have Hitomi and Tanaka challenging Ling Hsuan and Ting-Chien Wei. The Japanese pair pulled off an upset over the top-seeded Charmaine Seah of Singapore and Tsukamoto, 0-6, 6-0, 14-12, while the Chinese-Taipei duo prevailed against Homada and Koyama, 6-1, 6-1.

NMSA

From Page 28

the entrance of the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield (facing Kilili Beach) was repaired last Tuesday, while the press box at the baseball field is undergoing renovation.

"We're doing improvements little by little as we wait for our funds. I got a call from the governor and he raised concerns on the broken fence—it's an eyesore and may pose a threat to the safety of the people going to the complex and using that entrance." Rogolifoi said.

Majority of the complex's fences sustained significant damage from Typhoon Soudelor that hit the island last Aug. 2. The facilities inside the complex were also greatly affected, causing their closure for several months. While the complex was closed, NMSA made an assessment report about the damage and sought assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to repair the main sports facility in the CNMI.

Rogolifoi said a little over $500,000 was approved by FEMA to repair the damage at the complex after the agency made its own assessment late last year. The NMSA executive director added that the funds are already available and should be released through the Capital Improvements Project.

"I was told there are some papers works that need to be done, like procurement and bidding. We are still waiting from CIP and while we are doing that, we would like to make some improvements here at the complex," Rogolioi said.

NMSA is looking to fix the crumpled batting cage and Rogolifoi said he will ask assistance from the teams playing in the ongoing 2016 Saipan Baseball League. Over at the track and field facility, lights have been fixed and NMSA is also waiting for the release of funding (from Northern Marianas Housing Corporation) for the resurfacing of the rubberized track oval.

The Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium and Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield will also undergo repairs and improvement using the money from FEMA.

"We're doing the best we can with the money (NMSA operational fund) we have now. Hopefully, in a few months we will get the funds allocated for these projects," Rogolifoi said.

TINIAN

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Tyler Santos, Ace Pangilinan, John Dona, Mike Cabulay, and Jayron Epity as members, topped the boys U18 field after dominating the field events—javelin (18 points), discus (24 points), and shotput (24 points). MHS, which took the early lead in the division after ruling several running competitions, dropped to second as it did not have entries in the three field events, while Agape tallied only 26 markers in the javelin, discus, and shotput.

The Stallions' victory in the boys U18 foiled MHS' bid for a sweep in the age group. The Lady Dolphins was the runaway winner in the girls U18 after getting 210 points or nearly double than the total output of the second-ranked ACS (107). Saipan International School rounded out the Top 3 after tallying 34 points.

The Top 3 finishers in U18 division and other age groups received trophies from the organizing Northern Marianas Athletics last Saturday at the conclusion of the four-day meet at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

Hopwood took home three first place trophies after sweeping the girls and boys U13 and prevailing in the boys U15. The Hilitais were way ahead of their competitors in the boys U13 after recording 130 points. Second placer SIS and third finisher Tinian posted only 62 and 58 points, respectively. Agape (46) came in at fourth, followed by Dandan Middle School (43), Saipan Community (22), San Antonio (10), Whispering Palms (6), and Chacha (6).

In the girls U13, Hopwood was also a dominant force, collecting 189 against the 58 of San Antonio and 30 of SIS. Agape had 28 markers to fall short in its bid to make it to the podium, while Tinian got only 12 markers for fifth place.

Agape made up for a missed chance in the girls U13 with its first-place finish in the girls U15 division. The Torchbearers tallied 118 points to prevail against Hopwood (76) and Dandan (46). Tinian logged 44 and San Antonio earned 4 points to complete the field.'s 91.In the boys U15, Hopwood got even with Agape with the former registering 106 against the latter's 91. Tinian finished third with its 76 points, while San Antonio (30) and Tanapag Middle School (20) came in at fourth and fifth, respectively.

Meanwhile, William S. Reyes Elementary School and Koblerville shared the spotlight in the elementary division, winning three age groups titles each.

The Kingfishers swept the boys and girls U7 after gaining 132 and 80 points. In the boys field, WSR finished ahead of Brilliant Star School (63), Koblerville (52), and Tinian (27). In the girls contest, the Kingfishers topped Koblerville (64), Agape (28), SCS (18), and Whispering Palms (6).

After settling for runner-up honors, it was Koblerville's turn to rule the U9 age group. The Umangs got 110 points in the boys division to win against WSR (79), Whispering Palms (36), Tinian (13), Kagman Elementary School (11), SCS (10), SIS (10), and Agape (8). In the girls field, Koblerville's 105 points bested the 63 of WSR, 54 of Brilliant Star, 27 of Tinian, 26 of Whispering Palms, and 16 of Agape.

Koblerville got its third division championship after reigning supreme in the girls U11 age group. The Umangs were awarded with 124 points to down Whispering Palms (88), Tinian (43), WSR (18), Brilliant Star (8), Kagman (4), and Agape (4).

WSR duplicated Koblerville's three title wins after lording it over in the boys U11. WSR posted 85 points to beat the 43 of Tinian, 42 of Agape, 38 of Koblerville and Kagman, 28 of Whispering Palms, 11 of Chacha, 6 of Brilliant Star, and 2 of Dandan.

PBA-Budweiser Saturday Night League/Classified Tournament Winners

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Class A champion Alex Castro is flanked by runners-up Robert Talavera, left, and Raymond Angeles during the awards ceremony for the PBA-Budweiser Classified Tournament held last Saturday at the Saipan Bowling Center.

From left, Class B winner Ronald Epan, runner-up Janice Camacho, and third placer Arnel Ibarreta pose with their trophies.

From left, Class C champion Benjie Cruz, runner-up Gigi Zapanta, and third finisher Simeon Eparwa pose for a group photo.

Mobil members gather for a photo after receiving their fifth place prize in the PBA-Budweiser Saturday Night Bowling League.

Kathy Mersai, left, and Robert Talavera are all smiles after winning the individual high average awards.

Players of SBC/J's Restaurant are given recognition for placing third in the Saturday night league.

D' Unknown bowlers pose with their runner-up trophy.

Three SBC/J's Restaurant bowlers receive their team high scratch game prize.

From left, Gigi Zapanta, Ador Dimaano, and Lala Taitano receive the first place trophy for Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

Westbrook leads Thunder to 3-2 lead vs Spurs

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Yankees overcome Royals, Cain's 3 HRs

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Tinian foils MHS' bid for sweep

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Tinian Junior and Senior High School stole the thunder from perennial champion Marianas High School, winning the boys U18 division title in last week's 2016 PSS/McDonald's All Schools Track and Field Championships.

Tinian collected 141 points from the 12 events its students participated in to place ahead of MHS and Agape Christian School in the final rankings. The Dolphins got 118 points, while the Torchbearers scored 111. The eventual division champion, which had Zachariah and Joshua Hofschneider,

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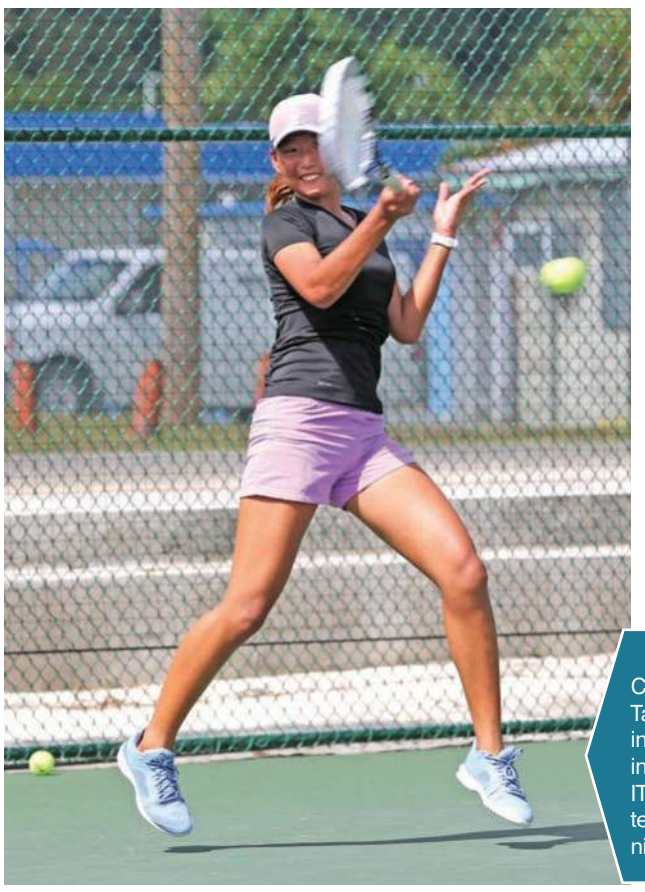
ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A Tinian High School runner, third left, races in the 60m run during last week's 2016 PSS/McDonald's All Schools Track and Field Championships at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

Lee stays in contention in ITF Juniors tourney



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Carol Leer returns to Chinese-Taipei's Ling Hsuan Wei during their second round match in the 2016 Chuck E. Cheese's ITF Junior Championships yesterday at the Rick Ninete Tennis Centre in Hagatna, Guam.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI's Carol Lee is still in the hunt for the singles crown in the 2016 Chuck E. Cheese's ITF Junior Championships after dispatching her Chinese-Taipei opponent yesterday at the Rick Ninete Tennis Centre in Hagatna, Guam. Lee, who won her opening match in the ranking tournament against Japanese Karen Kondo last Monday, 6-1, 6-1, got her second straight game victory after downing Ling Hsuan Wei, 6-3, 6-3. With the pair of wins at the upper half of the main draw, the Commonwealth junior player earned a quarterfinals slot in the 32-player field.

In the Round of 8, the No.6 seed Lee will have her acid test as she takes on the top-ranked Sara Tsukamoto of the U.S. today at 9:45am. Tsukamoto advanced to the quarterfinals following a 6-2, 6-3 win against Hong Kong's Alicia Yue.

"She is a very good player. I have to play the same game I showed today and stay focus," the Saipan Community School student said.

Joining Lee and Tsukamoto in the quarterfinals at the top half of the draw were Chinese-Taipei's Ting-

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NMSA moves on with repair works at sports complex

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Northern Marianas Sports Association has started doing minor repairs and improvements at the Oleai Sports Complex while waiting for the release of funding allocated for the facilities damaged by Typhoon Soudelor last year.

NMSA executive director Tony Rogolifoi, in an interview with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, said the fence of the complex near

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The fence near the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield entrance was repaired early this week.